

Mr Thorpe to stand for reelection as leader

aced with deteriorating confidence in his leadership, Mr Jeremy Thorpe has announced intention to submit himself for reelection as Liberal Party leader, with a ballot expected to take place in the autumn. He suggested an election should be held as soon as a new voting system came into effect.

Vote under new rules expected in autumn

By Martin Huchlerby
Political Staff

Mr Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal leader, has taken his political future in his hands and announced his intention to submit himself for reelection as leader, with a ballot expected to take place in the early autumn.

Faced with declining confidence in his leadership and increasing criticism from some Liberal MPs, Mr Thorpe wrote to the party's president, Mrs Margaret Winfield, on Saturday, suggesting that an election could be held as soon as a new system of voting, now under discussion in the party, came into effect. The text of the letter was released yesterday.

Mr Thorpe has probably taken the only possible step to save his fortunes as party leader, since he intends to resign as leader until the autumn. He will then be seeking in the leadership election for the backing of his supporters throughout the party. Some Liberal MPs are that he will win the election as a vote of confidence. But the proposed new system, of which will be published today, all the constituencies will have a vote, system will be put forward to the Liberal Party conference in Liverpool in September. In political terms it is far too long a period of uncertainty.

He took the view that the party had been allowed to drift, with no real sense of purpose, though that drift had been actually masked by the personal difficulties of the past few months. He hoped that if there was a long period before leadership election, the time would be used by the party to think out its future and direction.

It became clear yesterday that Mr Thorpe's intention to stand for reelection in the autumn is not a bluff, and that there are likely to be some MPs for Mr Thorpe to buy time for to think out its future and direction.

Mr Smith explained last night that under the new system a candidate would need the sponsorship of at least a third of the party's MPs. Although MPs could sponsor more than one candidate, any candidate would have to obtain from at least a third of the MPs a statement that they were willing to serve under him as leader.

Mr Smith said that would ensure that anyone elected as leader had the confidence of the parliamentary party. The voting would be in the hands of an electoral college, mainly formed of about 2500 representatives of the Liberal constituency parties.

Mr Alan Beith, MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed, thought it "a sensible decision". Mr Pardo, however, simply said: "No comment". By the weekend, criticism of Mr Thorpe had become stronger. Mr Hoosen commented: "I think the Thorpe era is probably at an end. It is tarnished."

After the recent controversies involving Mr Thorpe, the Liberal Party's loss of the Coventry North-west by-election provided a further blow. If the Liberals fare badly in the forthcoming by-elections at Sutton, Carlisle and Wirral, as many expect, Mr Thorpe's position may well become untenable.

One possible contender in any election is Mr David Steel, the former chief whip, but he is closer to Mr Thorpe than Mr Pardo and Mr Hoosen and it was clear last night that he has no intention of making any early announcement about whether he might stand in the autumn. He is known to be unwilling to stand against Mr Thorpe.

Steel union opposes flat-rate pay rises

By Our Labour Editor

Fresh opposition to any extension of the flat-rate pay rise principle when the 56 incomes policy expires in six months' time was voiced yesterday by the largest union in the steel industry, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

Mr William Sims, general secretary of the union, said his national executive was willing to accept a further round of wage restraint, but wanted no more "same-for-all" pay rises of the kind currently in operation.

It was also anxious to see productivity bargaining introduced as a means of restoring the steel industry. The union is still in dispute over the blocking by the Government of work-measured incentive pay schemes.

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The reality behind the mounting casualty figures Death and vengeance in Rhodesia

From Richard Cecil
Mount Darwin, North-east Rhodesia, March 7

Rhodesian security forces from the small town of Mount Darwin, 37 miles from the Mozambique border, killed four terrorists in an engagement just outside a small village 15 miles from here yesterday afternoon. Later I saw the bodies of the dead being flown in nets slung from a helicopter.

The men were being followed by a tracker team of the Rhodesian Army. Three were killed as soon as contact was made, while the fourth crawled wounded into a field of maize and was killed by the machine-gunner of the patrol. A small group of terrorists escaped by running into the village.

It is suspected that the band were part of the "cannibal" gang, who were recently reported to have cut off the lips, nose and ears of an African and made his wife cook and eat them.

In another incident here yesterday terrorists killed Mr Kaseli, a local African, and severely beat up his wife, accusing them both of giving information to the security forces. In return for 500 Rhodesian dollars (about £280), the couple's daughter, aged 12, was also beaten with the same heavy sticks that killed her father and fractured her mother's skull and broke her arm, among other severe injuries. I saw Mr Kaseli's body, and death had been both painful and slow.

I also watched as Grace Kaseli, the daughter, was taken by Rhodesian Army medics. Through an interpreter she told of how the terrorists had refused to accept the family's denials.

The district is one of the richest farming areas of Rhodesia. It is part of a tribal trust land with its traditional African way of life. The area is a small farm owned by Africans and run with European help and part large European farms. Yesterday evening I talked to a group of local European farmers after their fortnightly meeting at the Mount Darwin Farmers' Club. As they were being shepherded into small convoys to return home under army escort, they were clearly encouraged by the security force successes.

Michael Kupe writes from Salisbury: In a statement today reporting incidents over the past five days, security forces disclosed that altogether six more guerrillas had been killed while

eight African civilians had died and many were wounded in numerous incidents.

A white woman and her young son were wounded in a guerrilla ambush, while an unspecified number of security force members sustained minor injuries.

The statement also accused Mozambique troops of several unprovoked shooting attacks across the border.

In one incident, the statement said, Mozambique forces fired at a fencing party in the Penhalonga area, just north of Umtali. On three other occasions Mozambique forces near the border had fired on aircraft flying within Rhodesian airspace. They had also fired at a border police station at Viba Salazar.

The white woman, Mrs. Botha, and her son, Peter, were injured when the car they were travelling in with Mr. Joubert's husband was ambushed in the Chipinga area in south-east Rhodesia.

The mother and child were evacuated to Salisbury for treatment and were in a satisfactory condition. No further details were given.

In the same area, according to the statement, an unsuccessful attack on a white-owned farm was made. Continued on page 6, col. 4

Continued on page 6, col. 4

EEC deal means food price rises of 2%

Mr Peart, the Minister of Agriculture, is likely to face criticism in the Commons today over the EEC's annual farm price review. Under arrangements agreed in Brussels at the weekend, British food prices will rise by a further 1p in the pound. This is in addition

to another 1p in the pound increase resulting from an earlier commitment to bring British food prices closer to those in other EEC countries. Prices in the shops of butter are likely to rise by about 8p a lb, of cheese by about 4p a lb, and of milk by 1p a pint.

Reagan attack on Mr Ford

Mr Ronald Reagan, the Republican challenger, has injected an intense message of alarm into his Florida campaign speeches. He has attacked Mr Ford and Dr Kissinger for allegedly jeopardizing the West with their policies towards Russia. The attacks appear to have lost him the chance of being considered for the vice-presidency.

Prisons 'should be tougher'

Many magistrates' court staff believe prison should be made as unpleasant as possible, even if it means Russian-style labour camps, the journal of the Association of Magistrates' Officers says today. An editorial criticizes social workers and probation officers for identifying too much with their clients.

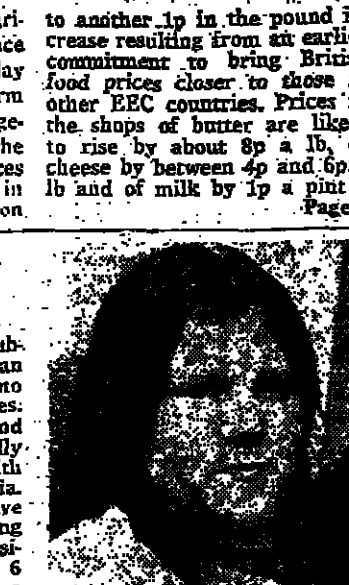
Press freedom

The dispute involving the National Union of Journalists in Barnsley is expected to lead to a reversal of the Tories' battle in the Commons to preserve press freedom. Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, has been asked to intervene.

Devolution test

A devolution Bill is being drafted on the lines of the White Paper as a symbol of good faith towards the Scottish nationalists. The Bill will be written after public opinion has been tested.

Leader, page 13
Letters: On Conservatives and the trade unions from Mr John Gurnett and Mr Nigel Saul; on a state political subsidy from Mr F. W. J. Whetstone; and damages for a crash deaths from Mr Bernard Engler
Leading articles: Political prisoners; Kurds
Features, pages 10 and 12
Albert Speer: an exclusive interview; Edmund Spenser: a new up the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Soviet Communist Party; David Stoddart: the French season at the Greenwood Theatre
Sport, pages 8-10
Football: Geoffrey Green reviews the FA Cup ties; Rugby: Union:



Pledge to Egypt

An article published in the American magazine Foreign Policy seems likely further to exacerbate relations between Washington and Israel, for it gives details of a secret pledge to President Sadat that the United States would try to persuade Israel to restore the 1967 Egyptian border in the Sinai.

Sale Room: Important works by Braque and Matisse are included in auctions at Christie's and Sotheby's next month.
Paris: French went to the polls yesterday in local elections that will test President Giscard's popularity.

Australia: Mr Whitlam continued by Labour Party for "grave errors" but remains leader.
Differing fortunes for Wales and England in international matches: Motor racing: South African grand prix: Racing programmes for today's meetings.
Obituary, page 14
Dr Dorothy Wright, Dr Anthony Sillery, Mr Wright Parnham, Marie Rosenblum
Business News, pages 15-19
Financial Diary: Need for realism in property shares, re-evaluation of the British Institute of Management's call for a dynamic new voice; How word-processing machinery can transform the typing pool.
Business Diary: Why Olivier Giscard d'Estaing, the French President's brother, was in London
Business management: Implications of the British Institute of Management's call for a dynamic new voice; How word-processing machinery can transform the typing pool.



A more traditional sort of brick sculpture, on show today at The Building Centre, London: the work of Mr Walter Ritchie, seen here with one of a series of panels.

Stronger power over investment sought

By Our Political Staff

More energetic action by the Government to force increased investment, and to rebuild Britain's manufacturing industry, was demanded yesterday by Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the Labour Party. He told the Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party, meeting at Scarborough: "Let us stop being so defensive about our policies towards industry. It is high time we went on to the attack."

Mr Hayward wanted the Government to take more powers to put its industrial policies into effect. "We believe that exhortations, slogans, speeches, handouts of public cash and the rest cannot be enough to put British industry back on its feet."

He added: "There has to be some real power so far as private industry is concerned, and we must take all the powers we need to ensure that industry responds." Big companies had to be compelled to conclude planning agreements, and we want the National Enterprise Board to own a range of big, viable firms in manufacturing, and to be able to save a massive programme of investment."

Extra security after IRA hits airport

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Extra security precautions were in operation in and around Aldergrove Airport yesterday as flights returned to normal after the disruption caused by the home-made mortar shell attack on Saturday night by the Provisional IRA.

The attack was potentially the most serious ever made against Aldergrove, about 15 miles outside Belfast, which for some time has had the reputation of being one of the best-guarded airports in Europe. Military and R.A.F. personnel are constantly present and no visitors are permitted inside the terminal building.

On Saturday, 13 mortar shells were fired in the direction of the crowded passenger terminal from a hijacked lorry parked in a garage forecourt a short distance away. The shells were fired from 14 mortar tubes embedded in a mixture of sand and clay in the back of the lorry. Those were attached to electronic timing devices which have not been seen before in Ulster.

Bomb explodes at motorway service station

By Staff Reporters

A bomb, found by an AA patrolman in a hoidall, exploded in a car park at Newport Pagnell service station on the M1 motorway last night.

The explosion occurred in open space, not in a car, with no one in the vicinity. Several parked cars were slightly damaged.

Traffic on the southbound carriageway was diverted at junction 15, some miles north of the service station, and allowed to rejoin the motorway at junction 13, near Amptwell, Bedfordshire.

Morocco severs Algeria links

Rabat, March 7. Morocco and Mauritania today broke off diplomatic relations with Algeria.

The decisions came after a prolonged dispute about the future of the western Sahara. A Reuters.

Industrial action closes 3 million Sunday papers

Our Labour Editor

Unofficial industrial action members of the Society of Printers and Allied Trades on Sunday night caused the loss of more than three million copies of national Sunday newspapers.

There was a dearth of news on sale in London yesterday, because of action taken by some members working for London wholesale distributors. All newspapers were involved in the production losses, which were from a dispute between the printers and the publishers. The printers, which was at its height in June, was believed to have been damaged by a collision with a West German cargo boat.

Spanish minister promises opponents a fight

From Harry Debelius
Victoria, March 7

At a press conference given by the Spanish Interior Minister, left this troubled Basque city this afternoon after a hurried and hectic visit in which he promised: "If anyone wants a fight, he will get it."

The minister arrived here by helicopter yesterday evening, accompanied by Señor Rodolfo Martín Villa, the minister in charge of the state-run trade unions, and Lieutenant-General Angel Campaño López, director of the Civil Guard paramilitary police.

Their visit, prompted by the fatal shooting of three workers by police in Victoria last Wednesday, coincided with the news that another worker injured in a clash with police on Friday in the eastern coastal city of Barcelona, had died. The death brought the total of workers killed in confrontations with the police in the past two weeks to five.

During his overnight visit, Señor Fraga was informed of demands by the Roman Catholic clergy of Victoria and others to limit in justice those responsible for the fatal shootings. A four-point statement which he issued last night, jointly with the provincial authorities, regretted "the very serious deterioration of peace", but it did not specifically express regret for the workers' deaths, nor did it promise any investigation.

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Profits (prof' its)

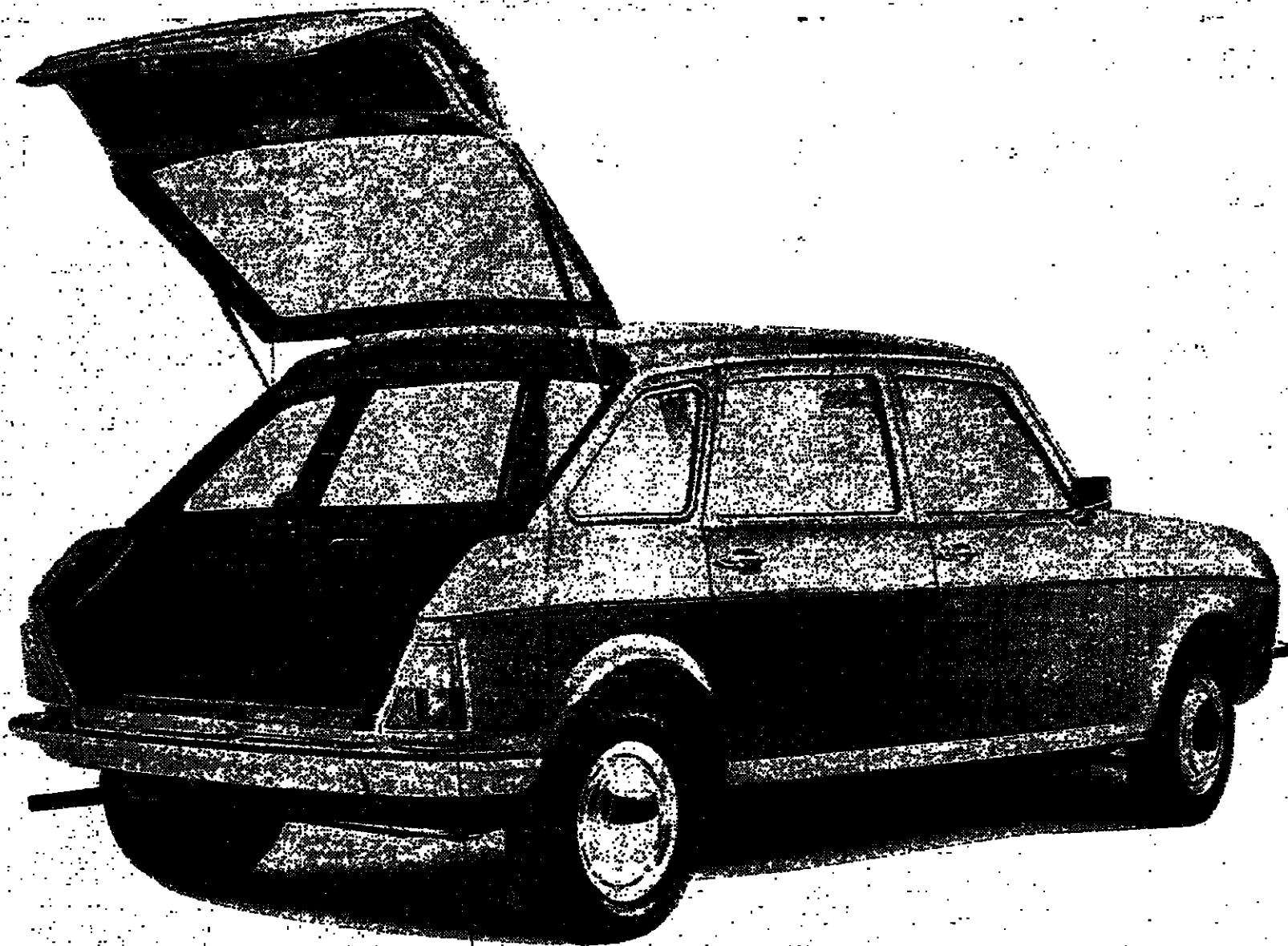
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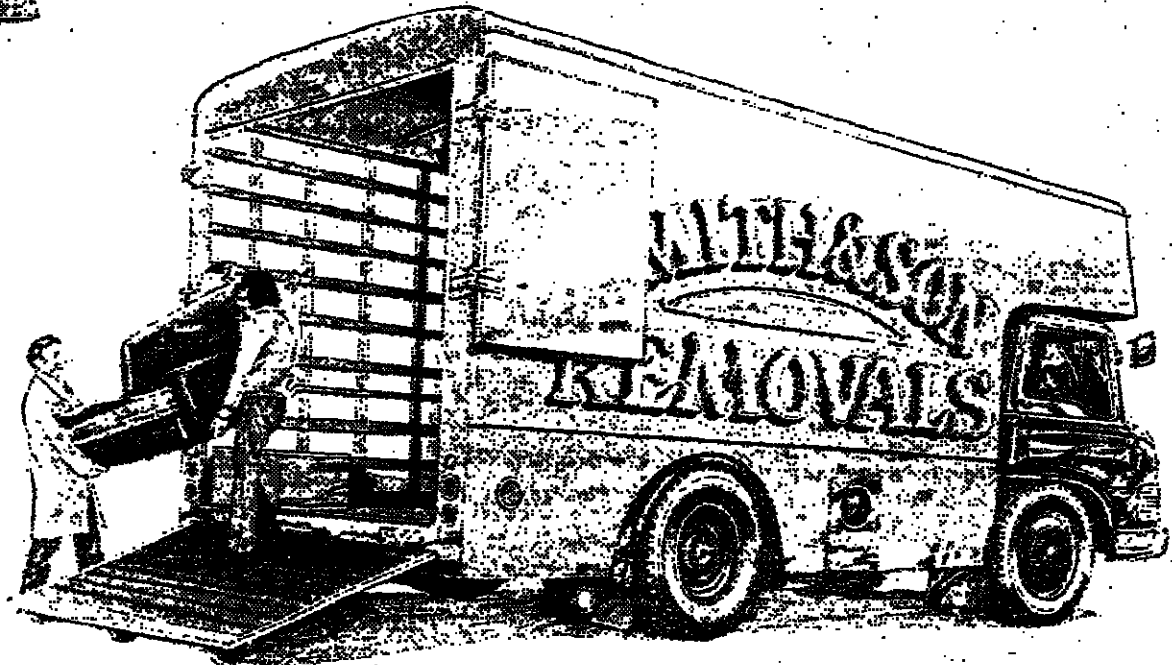
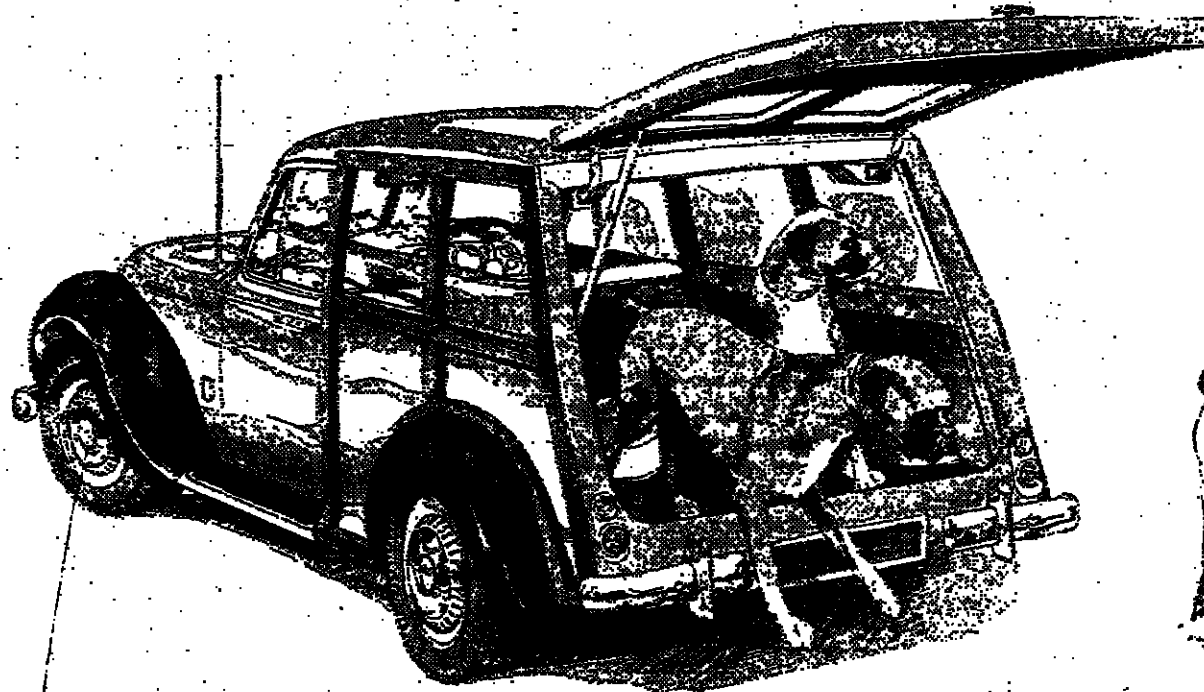
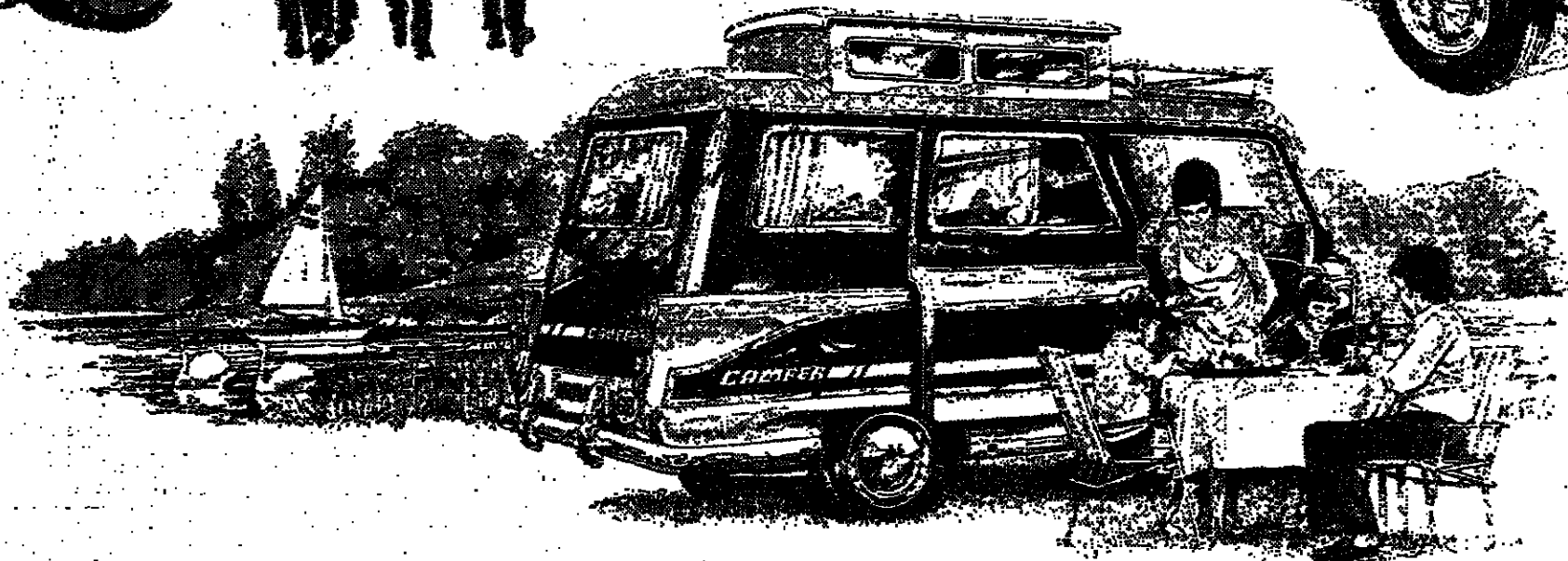
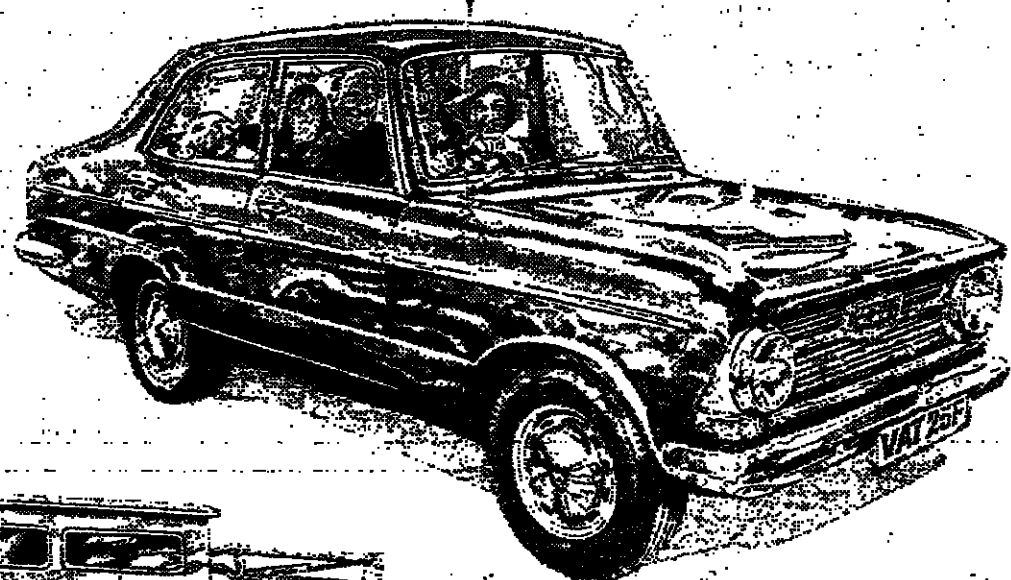
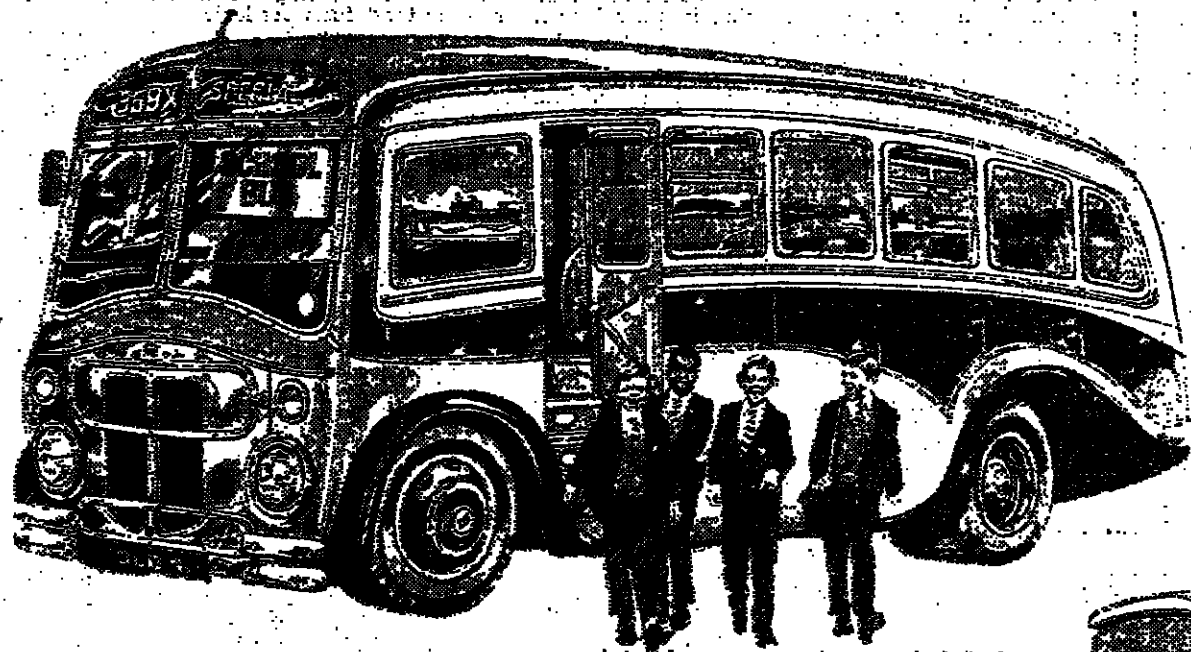
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HOME NEWS

Prison must be made more unpleasant, court staffs suggest

By a Staff Reporter

Prison must be made so unpleasant that nobody will risk it, even if it means Russian-type labour camps. That is the opinion of a growing number of staff of magistrates' courts, according to the issue of the *Magisterial Officer*, the journal of the Association of Magisterial Officers, published today.

Members of the association, which represents 3,500 court staff, were in the front line of an impending "massive collision" between anarchic exponents of the alternative society and the establishment, the journal's editorial says. Yet many felt they were unsupported by those agencies from which support could be expected.

The "thin blue line of the police" was as reliable as ever, but many members of the probation and social work services seemed to identify completely with their clients, as was clear from their reports provided for the courts, and in their manner of conduct and dress while in court.

Probation officers and social workers now seemed to be trained by teachers who had no sympathy for the establishment. Time and again the only explanation offered in probation reports for "a bunch of horrible crimes" was that the offender was "a member of the alternative society".

No help was forthcoming either from the Home Office, which did not seem to recognize that its policies over the past 20 years had produced the present problem. "The Home Office is

only too obviously bent on making prison softer and not harder," the editorial says.

The Home Office doctrine of "rehabilitation within society" was nice enough for the criminal, but very rough on society. A recognizable voice in the association proclaimed that in such a "crunch" situation, the custodial option must be made a real deterrent. Prison, it would be sufficiently nasty, it would at least mean that the alternative of "rehabilitation within society" would be worth something, and would be valued accordingly by those lucky enough to get it.

The editorial goes on to criticize the "complete inadequacies and ineffectiveness" of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1969. In its present form the Act was simply "the handing of keys to juveniles to commit such crime as they can without any fear or threat of punishment being imposed", the editorial says.

"We all realize that when juveniles appear before the courts they simply laugh at the magistrates. They know that there is no fear of ever being sent away from home. They know that in a large number of cases the hands of the justices are completely tied and that they will be leaving the courts with a further conditional discharge."

The answer, the editorial says, was for more money to be spent on better secured establishments for juveniles and more penal institutions for adults. Until these were built the crime rate would continue to rise.



"Nu au Turban" by Matisse, to be sold at Sotheby's on April 7, and "L'Italiane" by Cruche" by Picasso, to be sold at Christie's on April 6.

A feast of paintings for auction

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

There are very few restaurants in the world where the walls are hung with great paintings. At the Koenigshaus, in Zurich, diners can feast their eyes on works by Bonnard, Picasso, Matisse and a range of more modern artists.

The collection has been formed by Mr. Gustav Zumbach and on April 6 he is selling

seven of his earlier paintings at Christie's as he has become more interested in truly modern art.

Christie's have devoted a special catalogue to the seven works which they estimate to be worth between £50,000 and £80,000. They include a highly regarded Braque still-life of 1943-44, "La Table de Cuisine au Grill".

There is a particularly beautiful example of Matisse's watercolor series, "Les Nymphéas", "Paysage d'Eau", dated 1938, two important works by Kandinsky, "Berglandschaft mit Dorf" of 1908, an outstanding example of his Expressionist period, and a fine late abstract of 1939, "Der Rote Kreis", a still-life of oysters by Matisse, an early Leger (1921), and a large Picasso drawing, "L'Allegre à la Cruche", of 1919.

The sale emphasizes that European collectors still regard London as the best place to sell great paintings. Eighty per cent of the works in the sale come from abroad.

Sotheby's are holding a parallel sale on April 7. It includes the finest Matisse to be seen in a London auction for many years, his "No. 1 Turban" of 1921, as well as a beautiful still-life of anemones by the same artist.

Sisley's "La Seine à Bagival" is a lyrical Impressionist landscape of the best period (1876), and the sale also includes a good Fauve by Vlaminck, "Le Remorqueur", of 1906.

New York sale, page 14

Head tells why girl was caned

Mr. Harry Clark, headmaster of Camden Square secondary school, Seaham, Durham, yesterday explained why a girl pupil aged 15 had been caned.

Karen McAdoo, of Ash Crescent, Seaham, has said she was held by Mr. Clark and a woman teacher, while another woman teacher caned her bottom.

The girl's parents have complained to the police, who are investigating the incident.

Mr. Clark said in a statement that in the few months the girl had been at his school she had been a "difficult" child, had played truant and was frequently late.

"The intention to cane her on the hands was a last resort before possible exclusion from the school," Mr. Clark said, and "the legal alternative of being caned on the buttocks."

"But she became violent when this was attempted, lashing out with her feet and hands," he said.

Beryl Hillman, the senior mistress, managed to cane her four strokes on the buttocks over her clothing, even though the girl's feet were being kicked and she was screaming and being shielded by her long coat.

"She arched herself backwards and was not bent forward as alleged. Two or three strokes therefore may not have been contacted properly," Mr. Clark said.

"My main concern at the time was to safeguard my two teachers whilst using the cane, and to prevent any order to achieve this."

Devolution Bill will be open to rewriting

From David Leigh

Edinburgh

A devolution Bill is being drafted on the lines of the Government's controversial White Paper, ready for production in preliminary form as a symbol of good faith towards the Scottish nationalists.

The drafting is almost complete, but in the face of widespread criticism that the White Paper is too "nannyish" and restrictive, some serious work is being done to rewrite the Labour Party's manifesto and before a public unveiling in early summer.

Although senior civil servants emphasize that there is nothing to prevent the tearing up and rewriting of some clauses, little of vital substance is likely to be reconsidered. The Bill will be presented either as an appendix to a short White Paper or as a "take note" motion in both Houses or be given a "dry run" second reading in the Commons. Then it will be shelved until winter.

A flood of reaction from Scotland has been almost digested, with the notable absence so far of a submission from the Scottish Law Commission. Most organizations have either called for more powers for Scotland or at least acquiesced in the idea of devolution.

Those which are hostile, like the Confederation of British Industry, or cool, like the Scottish local authorities, fear mainly for their own convenience or independence.

There are three main issues on which ministers will consider changes. The most likely is to give more economic power to Scotland's assembly, by letting it have full control of

the Scottish Development Agency and its five-year budget of between £200m and £300m for promoting and buying into industry. The fear is, however, that it might then start bidding against the English regions.

The second is about the whole control machinery devised for the Scottish Secretary of State office, "home rule". The Faculty of Advocates (the Scottish Bar) will publicly add its voice today to Scottish demands for less Westminster discretion and a clear set of territorial rights for a Scottish assembly.

A Westminster veto over legislation that might exceed the assembly's legal powers would be "constitutionally obnoxious," the advocates say. Nor would the parallel veto on policy grounds work well in practice.

It is impossible, they add, to draw a satisfactory line between branches of the law the assembly could or could not deal with. "Its function must extend over the whole range of the law applying to Scotland," the law applying to Scotland.

Ministers will have to weigh such complaints against a strong Whitehall case that Scotland is likely to get a better deal from a fairly informal, multi-party system than from a set of blunt constitutional instruments.

The third highly controversial issue is taxation. There will be even stronger arguments that none of the Scottish opinions consulted about the White Paper has made a convincing dent in the plan to allow an assembly surcharge to be levied on the rates.

The White Paper, however, modified, will not appease the Scottish National Party which says its plans are "grossly inadequate".

£1 sacrifice urged for teachers

A call for Britain's 360,000 teachers to sacrifice £1 of their forthcoming £6 pay rise is made today by the Professional Association of Teachers.

The association, which has more than 10,000 members, believes the money saved would practically solve unemployment among newly trained teachers.

Mr. Ian Mitchell Lambert, vice-chairman of the association, said: "There are 5,000 teachers unable to find employment and the situation will become more serious in September, when 14,000 trained teachers will be looking for a job."

The association believes that the £1 sacrifice will enable 8,000 teachers to get jobs.

Farmers reducing hours to cut wages, union says

By Our Agricultural

Correspondent

Farmers were cutting the hours of women employees so that they could reduce their wages, Mr. Reginald Bottini, general secretary of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, said on Saturday.

He told branch officers of the union at a meeting in Colwyn Bay, Cymru: "Farmers have been behaving very badly on the issue of equal pay for women farm workers."

The Agricultural Wages Board had decided to allow all employees who worked for 30 hours or less a week to be paid at a lower hourly rate than those who put in more than 30 hours. Mr. Bottini said the workers' side had not been a party to that decision.

"We are informed that large numbers of women workers throughout the country who were formerly putting in more than 30 hours have had their weekly hours reduced to 30 hours or less, and in consequence are receiving a lower rate of pay."

Mr. Bottini said that such action by farmers went against the spirit of the equal pay and sex discrimination Acts. The union had taken test cases to the industrial tribunal and would report to the wages board next month.

He added: "I am sure that the independent members who voted with the farmers to introduce the relevant provision could not at the time have believed that it would be operated in the way it has."

TUC studying plan to ease home fuel needs

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

A 25-year programme to adapt Britain's homes to use less fuel is proposed in a discussion paper being considered by the TUC fuel committee. It would ensure that working families could afford adequate heating, lighting and hot water, in spite of high fuel prices, and help to conserve energy.

The idea is part of the first attempt to define a planned energy policy for the Labour Party. The discussion paper has been prepared by Mrs. Frances Morrell and Mr. Francis Cripps, policy advisers to Mr. Benn, Secretary of State for Energy.

The paper suggests that the cost of adapting homes should be met by diverting money earmarked for increasing energy

supply. Instead of investing vast sums in nuclear power stations, which may not be the best way of meeting future energy needs, the money could be spent on reducing demand by making sure that ordinary homes could be properly heated without using large amounts of fuel.

The key to future energy policy should be the right to adequate heating and lighting, instead of being based on market principles, the paper says. The market is no longer appropriate because the energy situation has radically changed, with sharp rises in prices.

"Families in the future will expect to allocate a greater part of their income to fuel, on present policies," the paper says. "Many will be too poor to do so. If we believe that people have a right to a reason-

able standard of heating and lighting in their homes, irrespective of income, systematic government intervention through a combination of fiscal, housing, energy and social policies will be needed to make that right a reality."

Without such intervention, working families who have grown used to a reasonable standard of heating and lighting will be forced to go back to pre-war standards, when it was common for only one or two rooms in a house to be heated. The paper points out that the choice available to consumers over what kind of fuel they use is already restricted, particularly for council house tenants. They may be faced with dependence on a highly priced fuel they cannot afford to use, while housing designs have already ruled out the possibility of using the most economical fuels available.

"It should be the policy of the next Labour Government to invest in new housebuilding and the alteration of the existing housing stock and other buildings in such a way as to drastically cut the energy needed to maintain warmth," the paper says.

Building regulations and subsidies must be tailored to that programme, but before regulations were made there must be a complete consultation with council tenants, owner-occupiers and industry. The investment involved could be offset in savings of supply, and over a period protect working people from some of the consequences of high prices which were likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

Fuel industry plans, page 15

Growth plan for area questioned

By Our Planning Reporter

On the eve of publication of the Government's revised strategic plan for south-east England, the Council for the Protection of Rural England has questioned the plan, which is being prepared by the Planning and Local Government, of failing to respond adequately to demographic changes.

In a statement issued today, the council points out that the original strategic plan, published in 1970, was based on continuing increase in region's 17 million inhabitants. "But this increase is just not happening," it claims.

The statement questions the need for growth areas such as Milton Keynes, Reading and Basingstoke. It points to the concern recently expressed by the Greater London Council, continued migration from the capital, and states that in four areas where severe restraint was supposed to be placed on growth—Uckfield, the Cotswolds, south-west Sussex and the Isle of Wight—no planning permissions have been granted since the original plan assumed.

Mr. Moyanban polled 37 votes, twice as many as Mr. Vivian Dinham, of St. Hilary College.

The new president of the Oxford Union Society is Mr. Charles Moyanban, aged 20, who is reading politics, philosophy and economics at University College.

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Energy—The Next Ten Years
A Times Special Report

The Times proposes to publish a major report on Energy on March 26th, 1976. The following is a synopsis of the proposed editorial content:

1. Introduction. This article will discuss the rate of progress towards an overall British energy policy, and how this dovetails with EEC policies, now that the Secretary of State, Mr. Benn, has begun to hold joint planning meetings. The aim is to help the coal, gas and electricity industries plan ahead without damaging each other's prospects. But the piece will argue the necessity for a still more co-ordinated policy.
2. Separate articles will assess:
 - (a) The role of oil now that it is part of the nationalized energy sector.
 - (b) Coal, tracing developments since the confrontation between the miners and the Heath Government.
 - (c) Gas. A fundamental question is how the Gas Corporation conserves United Kingdom reserves while meeting national demands.
 - (d) Nuclear power. The story of how costs, safety and disputes over design have inhibited post-war development in this sector. How successful will the steam generating heavy water reactor be? This article will discuss in the broadest perspective an industry about which there were such great hopes a generation ago, but still meets only 8 per cent of our energy needs.
3. Pricing policies. The long-term structuring of tariffs. The pricing of North Sea oil.
4. The implications of EEC membership for Britain's energy policy. An assessment of British actions at the recent Rome and Paris conferences when ambiguities developed over the degree of Britain's commitment to a common Community policy.
5. The UK's relationships with the OPEC oil producers as the country faces the prospect of becoming one of the largest producers in the world by the early 1980's, possibly ranking as oil nation no. 5. This article will be very broadly political as well as covering the specific energy issue, and will include an appraisal of Britain's Middle Eastern stance and the high priorities now given by all major parties at Westminster to cultivating relations with the Arab states.
6. The future of world energy. The debate between the optimists and the pessimists, who believe that without zero population growth in the industrialized nations there is no hope of resources meeting needs.
7. Interviews if granted with Leonard Williams, Director General of the EEC Energy Secretariat, and the Commissioner in Brussels, Henri Simonet.
8. This article will assess how far the UK is likely to become self-sufficient in energy over the next decade, whether the government is on the right lines in its approach.
9. Conservation. The Department of Energy has conducted the most effective campaign in the western world to save energy. Nevertheless, the international recession has had a greater impact on the saving of fuel. Consumption last year was 12 per cent down on 1973. In spite of the success in getting firms to switch off unnecessary lights, there has been little sign that companies are prepared to invest in energy saving equipment.
10. Alternative sources of energy. New developments e.g. solar and tidal energy are still very much in the long term, and the traditional oil, coal and gas will still account for the bulk of energy production over the next ten years.
11. Oil and Scotland. The impact of North Sea oil on nationalist politics. How far the discoveries off Scottish coasts have stimulated Scottish aspirations for a measure of self rule, and the social and economic by-products of oil exploitation on the mainland and the islands.

The inclusion or editing of some articles will be dependent on the final size of the Report.

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Fall in pound unlikely to affect cost of holidays

By Ronald Embley

Business News Staff

The fall in the world value of the pound late last week is unlikely to have any immediate effect on the cost of most overseas holidays.

A representative for the Association of British Travel Agents said yesterday that the lira, peseta and drachma were all under pressure on the foreign exchanges, and as most package tours are to destinations in Italy, Spain and Greece there should be no prospect of additional currency surcharges so long as that trend continued.

The travel trade has been keen this year to ensure that no late surcharges are added to the holidaymakers' bills. Members have tightened rules to ensure there are no demands on holidaymakers at the airport.

Many tour companies have been offering guarantees that once the final account is settled before departure there will be no additional charges.

There seems little prospect, however, of refunds on holidays to Spain. Last month, after the devaluation of the peseta by 11 per cent, association members were talking of reduced surcharges later this year, and in one case even of refunds. Last week's sterling slump has greatly reduced that possibility.

The association pointed out yesterday that while there were strict rules on the late imposition of currency surcharges, any additional fuel costs could be passed on to the holidaymaker. Because most main oil producers have opted to be paid in dollars rather than sterling, it is possible that fuel surcharges could be levied later this year.

Sterling lost more than three cents against the dollar on Friday alone and any continuation of that trend may lead to further rises in holidaymakers, having to make additional payments for fuel.

John Carter writes: A pledge that there will be no merging of package holidays before the late summer has been announced by Thomson Holidays. It follows moves by many tour operators to amalgamate holidays because of low bookings.

It is the first time a large company has guaranteed that its customers' holiday plans will not be affected by exchange rates.

The guarantee covers holidays to the end of August and a Thomson executive said a decision about the rest of the year would be made later.

Mr. Rogers Davies, marketing director, said, "The Thomson policy was not to merge holidays that were not selling well but to reduce prices wherever possible and make special offers to encourage bookings."

Early support for system to replace GCE and CSE

By Our Education

Correspondent

About 1,000 teachers and educational organizations are expected to give their views on a new examination system at a plus proposed by a working party of the Schools' Council. Comments must be received by the end of this month.

So far about 500 comments have been received, of which fewer than one in 20 have been against the principle of a common system of examining instead of the two separate examinations: General Certificate of Education (GCE) O level and the Certificate of Secondary Education (CSE).

About a fifth of the replies have fully accepted the plan that, from 1981, a new single-subject examination system should be introduced for the top three fifths of the ability range. About three quarters of the replies, however, have serious reservations about its administration and doubt its feasibility in certain subjects.

Dr. John Stroud, one of the council's joint secretaries, said: "The proposed title of the examination, Certificate of Education: Foundation, has come under almost total attack. There are also anxieties about the capacity of a common

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Dr. John Stroud, one of the council's joint secretaries, said: "The proposed title of the examination, Certificate of Education: Foundation, has come under almost total attack. There are also anxieties about the capacity of a common

system to meet the ends of the ability ranges."

He said many replies had advocated seven grades instead of five. Some had called for more time and maintained that much work was still needed before the examination could be properly developed.

The Schools' Council publishes today the results of experimental examinations held last year which support the view that a common examination system is feasible. The council is to publish shortly a calculation which will show that the new system will cost no more to operate than the present examinations.

The council will decide in July whether to submit its working party proposals to the Secretary of State for Education and Science for final approval. It will then have analysed all the comments received.

Comments should be sent to Dr. M. G. Ford, Examinations Officer, Schools' Council, 160 Great Portland Street, London, W1P 6LP.

Training centre to open for autistic children

The world's first vocational

training centre for autistic

children is expected to open in

Basing, London, in the autumn,

the National Society for Autistic

Children announced today.

It is hoped that it will be the first of a national network which will help autistic adolescents. The National Westminster Bank and the Manpower Commission have supplied the building finance for the first project.

There are 20,000 autistic people in Britain, most of them in mental subnormality hospitals unaware that they are autistic.

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olution Bill
pen to rem

EUROPE

package deal will lead to British food e rises of over 2p in the pound

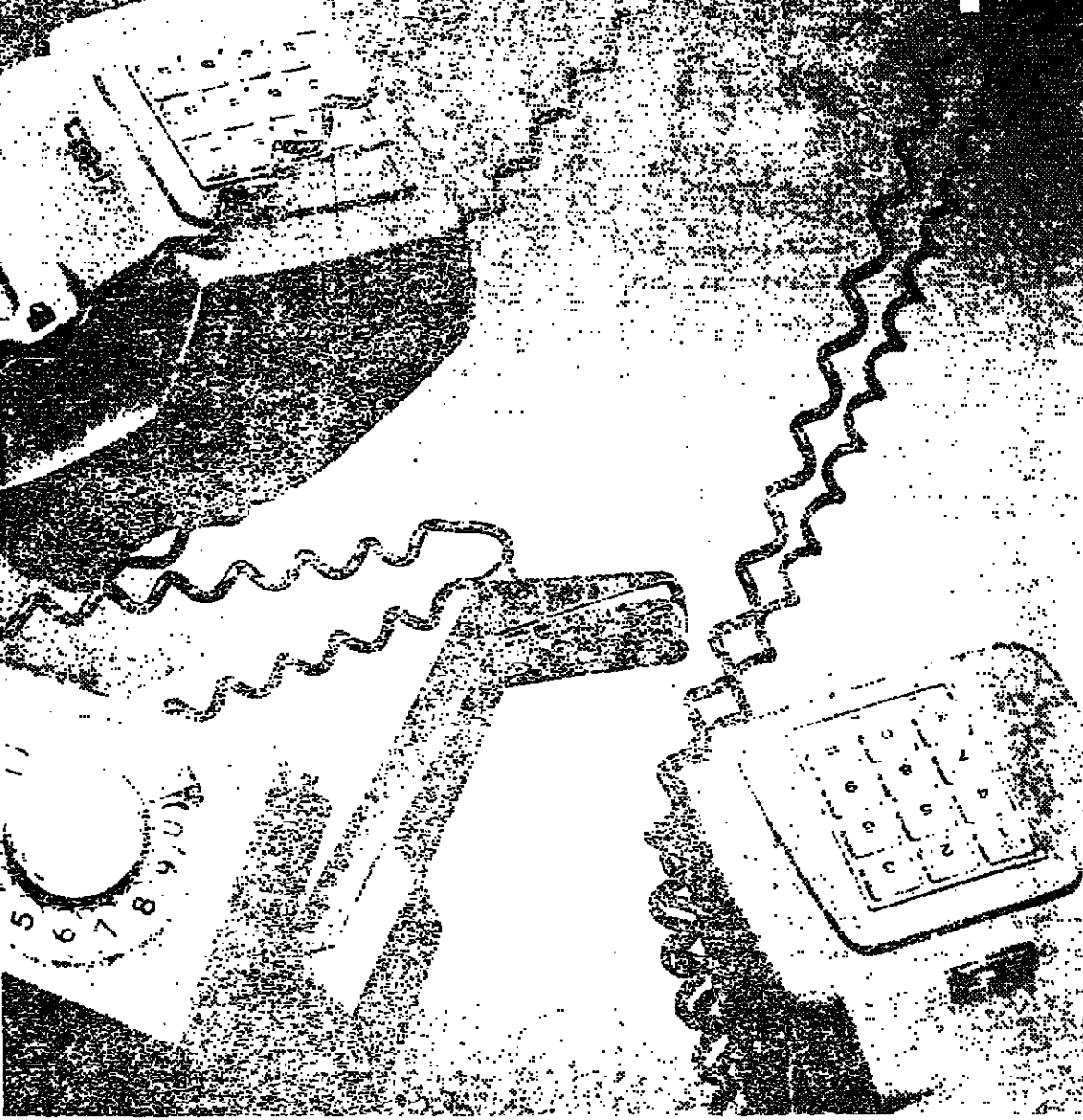
Cross
March 7
The Minister of
is likely to come
criticism in the
Commons tomorrow
EEC's annual farm
new arrangements
in Brussels on
British food prices
a further 1p in
in the coming
his increase is in
1p in the pound
resulting from EEC
standing commu-
adjust its prices
the higher levels pre-
other parts of the
British consumer the
the average 7.5 per
case in guaranteed
prices paid to the
the nine million
will mainly affect
ucts. Prices of butter
to rise by some 8p a
by between 4p
lb and milk by
in the shops. Other
its in the price
likely to put up
read and beef.
rises for dairy pro-
steeper than Mr
been hoping. He and
Erit, the West Ger-
ster, lost their battle
the increase paid to
mers to a strict mil-
producer price for
rise by an average
cent throughout the
ty this year in two
the difference be-
the French and Irish
sists.
te meeting, Mr Pierre
the European Com-
for Agriculture,
been arguing along-
British and the West
on the milk issue.
dear that he was wor-
the danger of new
and skimmed milk
s. But he drew some
from a promise by
sisters that they would
new arrangements to
solve the Community's
dairy surplus prob-
he coming months.
urt told reporters that

There was a risk of further
surpluses but not in Britain.
Another of Mr Peart's objec-
tives in the dairy sector—an
attempt to secure more EEC
funds to help to pay for butter
subsidies for consumers—was
partially successful. The Com-
munity has agreed to pay
slightly more than during the
past year. But New Zealand
butter will not be eligible for
Community aid.
The element in the final
package which particularly
gratified Mr Peart was authori-
zation to continue an amended
version of the special beef
marketing system he secured a
year ago as part of the Labour
Government's renegotiation of
Britain's EEC membership
terms. "When supplies are
good and premiums are being
paid this will mean cheaper
beef for the consumer than if
we had intervention only," he
told reporters.
The changes in the scheme
mean that smaller premiums
will be available this year and
that the Community will con-
tribute less to them if they are
needed to guarantee a mini-
mum level of income to beef
producers.
Mr Peart conceded that the
Community contribution of
only 25 per cent from Sep-
tember was not as good as he
would have hoped. The new
arrangements also increase the
risk of a beef mountain in
Britain similar to the 300,000-
ton surplus in other member
countries. But this would
happen only if British market
prices slumped drastically.
Farm experts feel this is
unlikely in the next few
months.
Mr Peart maintained that he
had been able to balance his
objectives of "more food from
our own farms and definite
restraint on price increases for
the consumer". He was con-
fident that the EEC measures
together with other arrange-
ments for British milk, sheep,
wool, potatoes and hill farm
subsidies that he will announce
in the Commons tomorrow
"will represent a very good
deal for our farmers and that
1976 will be a good year for
British agriculture".

This view was not altogether
shared by Mr Lardinois. He
told reporters that he thought
Mr Peart had not achieved
anything special from the
package and had shown com-
mendable Community-minded-
ness.
EEC farm experts felt that
Mr Peart's negotiating freedom
had been restricted partly
because he had concentrated
almost exclusively on securing
the continuation of the special
beef marketing system and
partly because he was no longer
able to ward the threat of
Britain's withdrawal.
The final key to the review
was an agreement between the
French and Italian Govern-
ments to end their 18-month
wine dispute. In return for
agreeing to abolish the border
tax imposed illegally on im-
ports of cheap Italian wine last
autumn, the French Govern-
ment will be allowed to pay
special subsidies to its wine
growers who will also receive
greatly improved EEC price
guarantees. In addition some
88 million gallons of cheap
Italian white wine will be dis-
tilled into industrial alcohol to
remove some of the present
glut.
The agreement includes
steps to discourage the pro-
duction of low quality wine. The
problem of the de facto de-
valuation of the lira was par-
tially resolved by an agree-
ment to modify the border tax
system required to compensate
farmers for currency changes.
Border taxes between Italy and
the rest of the Community are
to be reduced by 6 per cent.
The ministers also agreed to
reduce border taxes in West
Germany by 2.5 per cent, in
Ireland by 2 per cent, and in
the three Benelux countries
by 0.5 per cent. For the farmer
the changes will mean higher
returns in Italy and Ireland
than the Community average of
7.5 per cent. Farmers in West
Germany and the Benelux
countries will receive lower in-
creases than those elsewhere.
Subsidies on Community
farm exports to Italy are
expected to cost the EEC an
extra £80m or so this year. But
the budgetary implications of

the rest of the review are
expected to be contained
within the original estimate of
£2,250m.
According to M Lardinois,
the farm package will increase
food prices by an average of 2
per cent throughout the Com-
munity and will raise the cost
of living generally by 0.6 per
cent.
Some 400,000 tons of
skimmed milk powder will be
added to animal fodder to help
to disperse the Community's
1,100,000 ton mountain. A fur-
ther 200,000 tons will be
distributed as food aid to the
developing world. To pacify
the Community's traditional
trade partners like the United
States which fear that these
arrangements could hamper
their exports of soy beans,
the Community is to pay
storage aids for up to 250,000
tons of protein products.
For the first time, the buy-
ing-in price for bread-making
wheat will be higher than for
fodder wheat. This is designed
to discourage the practice of
using milling wheat for animal
fodder.
Sugar prices will go up by 8
per cent, soft wheat by 9 per
cent, maize by 8.5 per cent,
barley by 4.5 per cent, rye by
3.5 per cent and beef and pork
by 8 per cent.
Our Paris Correspondent
writes: The Brussels package
has been dismissed as inade-
quate by French agricultural
leaders. The principal farmers'
union demanded at the week-
end that the Government should
bring in national measures "to
compensate for the injustice
of the agreed increases. Dairy
farmers would not have their
production costs offset and
there would be a further de-
cline in income it claimed.
The Langue doc winegrowers
expressed scepticism as to
whether the Italians would
enforce their distillation
pledges.
The northern farmers' federa-
tion, which groups the cereal
and sugar beet interests, gave
warning that if there were no
national measures, violence on
the land of the kind seen last
week in the south-west could
spread.

Somebody's wrestling with property in Europe



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cialists in search of identity

ter Nichols
March 7
losing stages of the
Party's national con-
grat left unanswered
question that might prove
the country's future:
or not to force a dis-
solution of Parliament.
says might seem ample
discuss the future
a party, which is pre-
of size, and a long way
both the Christian
s and Communists, so
that one of the prob-
lems the congress was to
definition of Socialist

of collaboration with the Chris-
tian Democrats.
But today he rejected any
possibility of a Socialist role in
the Government in this Parliament
and won applause by raising a
clenched fist, so much so that
he repeated the gesture.
For some, his words meant
the end of this Parliament.
They were, in the phrase of
Signor Francesco Compagna, a
leading Republican, the "death
certificate of the legislature".
Certainly on the face of it,
they appeared to mean just
that. The consequences of
such an attitude could be very
grave as reports of fresh cor-
ruption scandals this week-
end appeared to go beyond
what is now taken to be normal
even in Italy.
However, Signor de Martino
did not leave himself totally un-
covered even on the fundamental
point of whether or not he was
willing to force an election in
such risky circumstances. He
said that the refusal to co-
operate with the Christian
Democrats could change if the
governing party, at its national
congress later this month,
agreed to form an emergency
administration which would in-
clude the Communists in some
form.
In this he was obviously
attempting to meet the
demands from the left-wing of

his own party that the congress
should fix a condition for any
future cooperation with the
Christian Democrats that the
Communists should not be left
in opposition.
He also left himself some
ground for manoeuvre when he
said that the Socialists would
not take part in government
but without specifically stating
that they would move into
opposition. At the moment
their position is one of abstention
which could presumably
continue.
Signor de Martino also tried
to avoid tying his party's future
conduct to Communist partici-
pation in government. If any-
one to gain from a general elec-
tion in the present scandal-
laden atmosphere it would be
the Communists.
The delegates tonight passed
unanimously a final motion
which approved Signor de Mar-
tino's report but went further
than he had originally intended
in refusing collaboration with
the Christian Democrats during
the life of this Parliament.

Local polls a test of Giscard popularity

Paris, March 7.—Half of
France outside Paris went to
the polls today to choose 1,863
cantonal representatives in offi-
cially "non-political" elections
which most people nevertheless
saw as a test for President Giscard d'Estaing's Administration.
It is the first nation-wide vote
since M Giscard's election in
1974. A total of 7,027 candi-
dates were contesting the elec-
tions, including M Chirac, the
Prime Minister, and 17 other
members of his government.
The cantons each elect one
representative to general coun-
cils which help to run the 95
departments of metropolitan
France and four overseas de-
partments.
First reports indicated a
higher turnout than for the last
cantonal elections in 1973, when
the abstention rate reached a
record 46.6 per cent. Sunny
spring weather encouraged vot-
ing but other factors such as
the opening of the trout fish-
ing season yesterday may mean
a lower poll in some cantons.
Voting figures issued by the
Ministry of the Interior at 5
pm, an hour before most polling
stations closed, showed a turn-
out of 52.6 per cent.
Only one minor incident was
reported. At Largentiere, in
the south, about 30 winegrowers
protesting against imports of
cheap Italian wine, besieged the
polling station and stuffed pro-
test tracts into voting envelopes.
In cantons where the leading
candidate fails to win an abso-
lute majority, a second ballot
will be held in a fortnight be-
tween the top two contestants.
M Chirac has claimed that
the elections are not a political
test because local issues and
personalities play a role and a
number of candidates do not
have formal party support. But
other members of the Govern-
ment admit that today's vote
represents a national opinion
poll and a pointer to the gen-
eral election due in 1978.
Agence France-Presse.

refers to death blessing

Own Correspondent
March 7
He said today that next
would, as he did every
pend his audience to
for Easter "and in pre-
for death, which for
it be far off". He was
y a crowd of faithful
ous gathered in St
square for his blessing.
led an invitation to
sitting on his audience
other that prayer was
ess, or superstitious or
It was the summit of
and of psychology; at
of morality and of
there is no suggestion
Pope's reference to his
death suggests any
tion to his health.

Iceland will allow British vessel to land seaman

From Ronald Kershaw
on board HMS Scylla
off south-east Iceland, March 7
Further evidence of détente
in the cold war emerged yester-
day when the support vessel
Hauka was allowed to enter
Nordfjord in east Iceland to
put ashore a seaman with a
broken leg.
The Hauka, it is understood,
is chartered by the Ministry of
Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food, and is not answerable to
the Navy task force. The cir-
cumstances in which the man
was injured cannot therefore
be confirmed from this frigate.
It is understood that the
landing was negotiated through
the gunboat Agir. It will take
the Hauka four to five hours

from her present position to
reach Nordfjord.
It was at Nordfjord that the
crew of the support vessel Oth-
ello were wonned by local res-
idents when they landed an in-
jured seaman a few weeks ago.
On that occasion, permission to
land the man had at first been
withheld.
This time there has been no
such problem, which tends to
support the view that the con-
flict is undergoing a cooling
process by the Icelanders. The
impression is reinforced by the
lack of any war-painting inci-
dent for the past nine days.
The fact that the Agir was
prepared to act as a liaison
between the Hauka and the
authorities in Reykjavik is a
further hopeful indication.

parties to contest the tuguese election

Shereiff
March 7
se political parties are
set the election to the
Legislative Assem-
April 25. The most pro-
are the Socialists, the
ists, the Popular Dem-
PPD) and the Social
ists (CDS). The Popular
ese Movement (MDP)
has been accused of
façade for the com-
is standing down. It
it did not want to
left-wing vote.
smaller parties include
ular Democratic Union
which stands to the left
communists: the Left
Movement (MES) and
ular Monarchist Party
g the socialist candi-
de Dr Mario Soares, the
under and Dr Raul
ne editor of the news-
epublica. Dr Francisco
eiro, the Popular Dem-
leader, is standing in
Popular Democrats and
al candidates are both
up candidates from

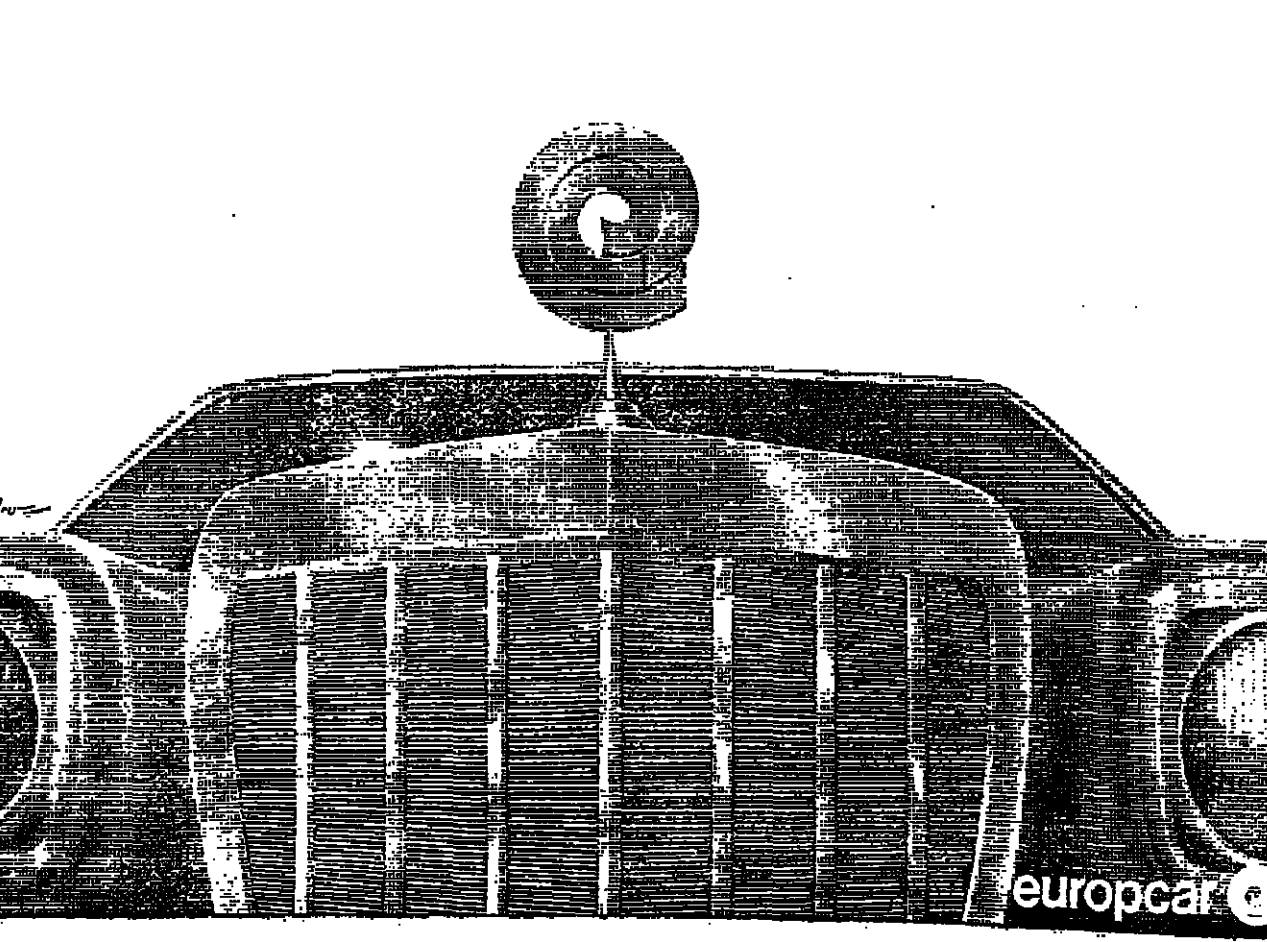
among the 300,000 refugees
from Angola. Emigrant
workers abroad may also vote.
Speaking at a dinner given
to the press by the Socialist
Party at the weekend, Dr
Soares said that during the
electoral campaign, the party
intended "to inform our fel-
low citizens with truth and
without mystification". He
added that a popular poll had
shown that 77 per cent of the
electorate intended to vote and
that 17 per cent were unde-
cided.
The Communist Party cele-
brated its fifty-fifth anni-
versary at the weekend. Speak-
ing at a celebration rally in
Lisbon, Dr Alvaro Cunhal, the
party leader, said that through-
out the years the party had
remained faithful to the work-
ing classes.
The party must make an
enormous effort to enlighten
the people that a Social Demo-
crat-Popular Democrat majority
with other associates would
mean not a democratic regime,
but the installation within a
short time of a new dictator-
ship, he said.

Chirac pacts give France staging rights in Chad

From Richard Wigg
Paris, March 7
France's determination to
maintain an influence in
Africa at a time when the con-
tinent is under increased com-
munist penetration was under-
lined at the weekend by the
lightning visit to Chad by M
Chirac, the Prime Minister.
He returned from Ndjamena,
the Chad capital, last night
having signed with General
Félix Malloum, the Chad head
of state, a series of agreements
on military and civilian co-
operation.
These signal an end to the
tense relations between the
two countries after the failure
last year to obtain the release
of Mme Francoise Claustre,
the French anthropologist held
in the desert by Chad rebels
since April 1974.
The decision to make peace
with the Malloum regime for
strategic reasons put the plight
of Mme Claustre once again in
second place.
The most important agree-
ment made public gives France
staging rights in Chad essential
for military traffic between

Paris and the French territory
of the Afars and Issas, border-
ing on Somalia.
However this is not likely to
enhance the chances of free-
dom for Mme Claustre or her
husband, M Pierre Claustre,
also a captive of the rebels
since his efforts to rescue
her failed last August.
M Chirac's presence in Chad,
instead of sending an official,
was insisted upon by General
Malloum, still smarting over
French "interference" when
Paris sought to buy Mme
Claustre's freedom.
President Giscard of Gabon,
who had sought to mediate in
the dispute, had recommended
such a gesture when he was in
Paris recently. He wants a
French presence reaffirmed in
the region against encroaching
left-wing regimes.
On arrival in Ndjamena M
Chirac said that he had come
to show "that France will
remain faithful to her
friends".
Chad has a territorial dis-
pute with Libya which last
year occupied some of its
northern frontier strip.

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Appointments Vacant also on page 20

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OVERSEAS

Dr Kissinger assigned role of villain in Reagan campaign

From Fred Emery
Naples, March 7

The nickel (25p) hot dog is back, proclaiming the powers of the Reagan campaign. It is a rainy Sunday day, with pelicans flying over a glittering sea, dotted with swimmers and boats. Just a normal day, a young dealer confides, explaining that he moved here from California because "I'm into water," and the sea there was too cold.

Naples is small but growing. With its booming tourism and developments it is typical of the affluent, sun-baked communities spreading south-west from St Petersburg along the Gulf of Mexico, which Mr Reagan must carry convincingly if he is to unseat President Ford in Tuesday's Florida Republican primary.

It seems an unwelcome place to receive Mr Reagan's unexpectedly intense message of alarm. But the challenger, so confident two weeks ago, is now running "scared". He has decided that his best bet is to run away at Mr Ford and Dr Henry Kissinger, his Secretary of State, for allegedly placing the country and the West in jeopardy from the Soviet Union. Whatever else Mr Reagan achieves with these attacks, he must have lost all chance of being considered for the vice-presidency.

Mr Reagan notes that people wonder whether differences between himself and Mr Ford are basic: "they are fundamental", he insists, trying to draw the sharpest distinction.

He is certainly not turned out candidate, as he has turned out a film star. The 1950s quiff is immaculate, as is his light-brown jacket, dark brown slacks and matching tie. His complexion, too, is flawless as he reads from a stack of notes in his left hand while the right hand, and he seems almost apologetic as he slams into Mr Ford.

The surprise is that Mr Reagan is so lacklustre, so unimpressed in his attack. His voice sounds tired. He sounds as if he knows that he is reading a script—he rarely deviates from one rally to the next in actual phrasing—and, to me, at least, he comes over as lacking conviction. The speech in fact looks much more rousing in print.

In Naples, the Reagan staff were clearly worried. They still claim that their soundings show the former California Governor ahead of Mr Ford, but it is the President—who is longer Mr Reagan—who is granted the lion's share of a "momentum".

The crowd in the park was not much more than 700 strong, although the organizers had promised 5,000. Part of the difficulty was that Mr Reagan had arrived too early. Most excitement came from the children trying to give their fill of those virtual give-away hot dogs. My first interview happened to be with a mother who had, in fact, heard nothing of the candidate's speech while struggling at the hot dog stand.

The crowd, mostly middle-class, middle-aged, and well-off

and one of the last populists in Congress.

Mr Mills was a different sort of man altogether. His committee was the most important in the House, producing all money bills, and he ruled it with a rod of iron.

His career collapsed after he was picked up by the Washington police after a midnight scuffle in October, 1974, his companion was an Argentine stripper. It emerged that he had been spending a great deal of time with her and had also become an alcoholic.

Mr Mills won reelection in Arkansas, in a district which he had represented since 1939, but with a much reduced majority.

Shortly afterwards he was photographed on the stage of a Boston strip club with the same girl.

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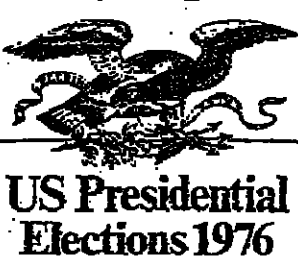
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US Presidential Elections 1976

Looking, wanted something to cheer about. Some had brought horns with "canned" noise, which they longed to release.

Mr Reagan made them wait until he got to his foreign policy dog section, in which he clearly draws a parallel between himself and the Winston Churchill of the 1930s.

Mr Reagan claims that the loss of American military supremacy "coincides exactly" with Dr Kissinger's time in office. He implies that Dr Kissinger is the villain of the piece, and that nice old Gerry Ford is rather to be pitied for being taken in, "as those of us who know him personally are sadly aware".

Mr Reagan goes on to voice his "fear for my country". The Administration is "barren", he says, "a supposed American advantage in the Cruise missile, it is a 'crack' in the relationship with China which Peking tried to rectify, somehow, by inviting Mr Nixon, he claims.

There is applause punctuating all this, but Mr Reagan does not noticeably alter his pace or his enthusiasm. Equally, he denounces the policy of "preemptive concessions" to the Russians which is how he describes détente.

He scoffs at Mr Ford's dropping the word détente. "It is Mr Ford's policy, not his vocabulary, which has failed the world," he says. His only suggestion is that the Soviet Union will not begin respecting the United States again until it has elected a new president.

Mr Reagan vows to restore government "by the people". He says that "either we run politics or politicians will run us", whatever that means.

His last word is emotional, or at least an appeal to the emotions. He recounts that a little girl asked what he wanted to be President. He confesses boring her with all that stuff about reducing the bureaucracy and cutting taxes. But he later realized that what he should have told her was that he wanted to have an America again in which that little girl can grow up having the same freedom we had when we were her age."

Mr Reagan descends from the podium to shake hands from behind a rope along the line of those who press forward. Security is the tightest of any of the candidates except President Ford's.

Yet it is here that Mr Reagan does best. His film star magic is also greater than that of any other candidate except the President. The woman who heard nothing while at the hot dog stand scrambles to reach out and touch him.

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An article that is likely further to exacerbate relations between Israel and Washington

Secret US promises to Egypt

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, March 7

President Ford last June gave a secret pledge, first given to President Sadat by President Nixon in 1974, that the United States would try to persuade Israel to restore the pre-1967 Egyptian border in the Sinai. Moreover, President Sadat secretly promised the United States last August not to join in the fighting if Syria attacked Israel.

Those promises are described in an article on the back-page of the magazine Foreign Policy.

The author, Mr Edward R. Sheehan, is a Harvard University analyst of Middle East affairs. He quotes extensively from interviews with President Sadat, President Assad of Syria, Dr Kissinger and others involved.

Some passages, printed in transcript dialogue form, are likely further to exacerbate United States-Israel relations. They are described by the magazine's editors as "verbal tirades", raising the question of whether Mr Sheehan had access to the official minutes of the various parties.

The State Department, expecting a storm, is preparing to issue a denial that the article is, in any sense, an "authorized" version.

Nevertheless, it is known that State Department officers, including Dr Kissinger, helped Mr Sheehan to prepare a book said to be an expansion of the article.

The description of the secret pledge given by Mr Nixon to President Sadat during his visit to Cairo is not one of the passages in direct quotes. It would amount, however, to an American admission of the Arab interpretation of United Nations Resolution 242, namely that Israel must return to the 1967 frontiers.

The resolution, which Israel accepts, is ambiguous, calling for secure and agreed borders, and Israel has never pledged to go back entirely to those of 1967.

The article makes it clear that the Americans have never given this pledge to the Egyptians in writing. But Mr Nixon's promise, the article states, was given in Dr Kissinger's presence.

Dr Kissinger, it continues, was also present when Mr Nixon "informed" President Assad and King Hussein respectively that the United States favoured the substantial restoration of the 1967 frontiers on the Golan Heights and on the West Bank.

President Ford's turn came in Salzburg last June. Mr Sheehan writes that Mr Ford "repeated" Sadat's plea for a public commitment to the 1967 borders and soothed him instead with a restatement of Nixon's secret promise. Later, after agreement of the latest Sinai disengagement, President Sadat promised Dr Kissinger that if Syria attacked it would fight alone.

Officials here claim this last promise was recently conceded in writing by President Sadat.

The chief interest in the account, which begins with the aftermath of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, is in previously undisclosed discussion of last year's diplomacy.

In dealing with this phase, and particularly the dramatic breakdown of last spring, the article exposes Dr Kissinger's well-ventured frustration with the Israelis.

He is depicted as yearning for the wisdom and decisiveness of Mrs Golda Meir—“Miss Israel”, he calls her—and lamenting what he sees as the weakness, shortsightedness and nipping of Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, and Mr Shimon Peres, the Defence Minister.

Later Dr Kissinger is quoted as saying to the Egyptian leaders last summer: “Rabin, Peres, Allon—they’re not negotiators.”

day that Mr Salem would remain as Prime Minister in appreciation of his efforts, especially in laying the foundation of Mr Sadat's economic open-door policy. His new Government will replace that formed in April last year after the resignation from the premiership of Dr Abdul Aziz Hegazy.

President Sadat is planning the change against the background of intensive Arab efforts to help Egypt to recover economically after years of military spending and fighting against Israel, which sapped its resources. There are speculations in Cairo that the projected new Government will include leading economic experts to rationalize spending and draw up a comprehensive programme for the sound use of financial aid contributed by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, which have pledged some \$700m (about £350m).

The new Cabinet also will face the task of deciding how best to use American economic assistance, which Mr William Simon, the Treasury Secretary, said would reach \$1,000m in 1977—\$750m financial aid and \$250m worth of foodstuffs.

Mr Simon left Cairo today after talks with President Sadat. He said his visit was a further sign of increasing American-Egyptian economic relations and that the United States was prepared to help Egypt to carry out development programmes.

Yesterday, Mr Simon and Mr Zakaria Tawfik Abdul Farah, the Minister of Trade, signed an agreement under which the United States will provide Egypt with 500,000 tons of wheat and flour. The price of the shipment will be paid in 20 years with a two-year grace period and an interest of between 2 per cent and 3 per cent.

Dr Ahmed Abu Ismail, the Minister of Finance, who also conferred with Mr Simon, said his talks dealt with the possibility of the United States assisting Egypt's next five-year development plan.

The Americans also expressed willingness to help Egypt to improve and increase industrial production, Dr Abu Ismail said.

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SPORT

Cycling



Riders in yesterday's 62-mile "Travers Essex" roadrace, who had to face icy winds and sleet for much of the race.

Skating

Champion accentuates the positive and eliminates the negative

From John Hennessy
Göteborg, March 7

With the victory of Dorothy Hamill, of the United States, in the world figure skating championships in the vast, echoing Skandium Stadium here last night, we have come to the end of an era. Never again, surely, will it be possible for a woman to become world champion without mastering a triple jump.

It is omission in future will be as damaging as that of a double axel or a double lutz would be now. At a time when 13-year-old girls can include three triple jumps in a programme (Liliane Vodorosova, Soviet Union) and even a triple lutz (Denise Biellmann, Switzerland), the double jumper, however evasive, is apt to look a little like Cinderella wearing her sister's frock.

Douglas Chapman, the British trainer of Denise Biellmann (Netherlands), who was not only dislodged from first place but forced into third by Christine Erath (East Germany), a former champion, cutting-edge, remarked afterwards in his dry, economical way: "It would be nice to see the world champion at least try a triple."

But, the new champion has tried, as well he knew, of course, and found it beyond her range. For all the glorious elegance she achieves with her jumps, Miss Hamill is not endowed with the power of rotation that belongs to almost every other top woman skater today.

At least Miss Hamill must be given credit, having recognized her own limitations, for having superbly what is within her range. Everything she attempted last night was accomplished with mastery, control, and grace, as well as a skate blade, but the omission of the second double lutz in her programme told of either a miscalculation or a justifiable risk.

Miss Hamill said afterwards that she had "idolized" it in her first years. First Peggy Fleming, Olympic and world champion, and then Janet Lynn, who somehow never quite managed either, but she lacks the power to turn the judges and the crowd. The judges made their feelings known with 10 marks of 5.9, seven of

5.8, and one of 5.7 (from the Canadian judge, for technical merit).

With respect to the other eight good men and true, I would go along with David Dore, who preferred Miss Erath—finally (and to her own surprise) placed second in preference to Miss de Leeuw. The rest seemed to me to be, not so much judging, as prejudging, as Miss Hamill had only recently won the Olympic title from the other two.

Miss Erath, world champion two years ago, was the winner of the evening, judged by deserved applause of a knowledgeable audience. She fell on her second triple lutz loop, having already landed it perfectly in combination with a double toe loop, but in spite of that she was rapturously acclaimed.

She is the Rosi Mittermaier of skating. In the leader in any popularity poll, and, like Miss Mittermaier on the other side of the German wall, she is loath to retire from the scene. But whereas Miss Mittermaier is 26 and besieged with commercial inducements, Miss Erath is still only 19 and of course judged (or spared, she might think) the blandishments of professional promoters.

As both Miss Hamill and Miss de Leeuw will be moving into more profitable pastures, we may expect Miss Erath to regain her title in Tokyo next year, supposing that her elegant young competitor, Aletta Pötsch, has not been able to overtake her. I would not put that beyond the young pretender, still only 16, but mature well beyond her years.

Miss Pötsch was unable to show her best form last night and fell twice, but in these precarious days and another year's experience could bring her to Miss Erath's show. She did, indeed, beat Miss Erath for second place behind Miss de Leeuw in the European championships at Geneva in January, but her elder competitor had had the chance to bring herself to a concert pitch after suffering a twisted ankle in an accident on the Halle rink in November.

Also coming up fast on the rails is another 15-year-old, Linda Fratianne, of the United States. Dressed like a figure out of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, she produced 3.0 min 50 sec of midwinter magic before fluffing a double lutz just before the bell went. As it was, she received three marks of 5.9, and finished level on total points with Miss Pötsch, 185.16.

What happened, I wonder, between 1961 and 1964, to produce such a crop of wonderfully gifted girl skaters? Something to do with the atom bomb, I suppose. Miss Hamill added a chilling footnote before we all dispersed to the four corners of the earth. She talked of the long and arduous road she had taken to the top. "If in time she was asked, 'you are blessed with a daughter, would you want her to follow in your footsteps?' 'Absolutely not,' she replied, with utter finality.

When you think of the extraordinary acrobatic skills that young girls of today accomplish on the ice, it is hard to avoid the suspicion that, however gifted, they are being driven too hard. Triple lutes at 13, indeed, as Dr Johnson might say: "It may not always be done well; but you are thunderstruck if it is done at all."

A final word about individual judges' marks, always a fascinating subject for analysts. Miss Hamill's 10 place marks are explained by the fact that the Dutch judge, Paul Engelrieth, placed her second to Miss de Leeuw. The American judge, Yvonne McGowan, gave Miss Hamill her widest margin of victory, 0.66 of a mark.

The East German judge, Helga von Wicke, placed the first three marks in the correct order, awarding Miss Hamill 21.42, Miss Erath 21.12, and Miss de Leeuw 21.00. The British judge, Pamela Davis, reversed the German and the Dutch girls, but had the smallest spread of marks, from 21.12 for Miss Hamill to 20.94 for Miss Erath. She gave Miss de Leeuw 20.98.

WOMEN: 1. Dorothy Hamill (US), 185.16; 2. Aletta Pötsch (GDR), 185.00; 3. Linda Fratianne (US), 185.16; 4. Christine Erath (GDR), 184.80; 5. Denise Biellmann (Soviet Union), 184.80; 6. Peggy Fleming (US), 184.80; 7. Janet Lynn (US), 184.80; 8. Barbara Fentus (US), 184.80; 9. Barbara Borge (US), 184.80; 10. Barbara Borge (US), 184.80.

Men: 1. David Dore (US), 185.16; 2. Aletta Pötsch (GDR), 185.00; 3. Linda Fratianne (US), 185.16; 4. Christine Erath (GDR), 184.80; 5. Denise Biellmann (Soviet Union), 184.80; 6. Peggy Fleming (US), 184.80; 7. Janet Lynn (US), 184.80; 8. Barbara Fentus (US), 184.80; 9. Barbara Borge (US), 184.80; 10. Barbara Borge (US), 184.80.

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A Times Profile

Public administration has never been a subject to excite much in the way of public fervour. A diligent observer of Whitehall in recent years could be forgiven for concluding that in so far as the structure of central government has attracted the interest of a wider public at all, it has become the subject of a protracted moan about "cost-effectiveness", "accountability", "participation", "openness" and all the other dreary catch-phrases that fade into another "thoughtless" spinners have a taste for drama, even romance in the conduct of high politics find little to attract them in the worthy effort of central government to adapt itself to the needs of the modern state.

There are a few exceptions. The Foreign Office remains a certain glamour, the Treasury the kind of place which comes from being the focus of powerful, paradoxical feelings—admiration for its brainpower, contempt for its results—from a nation that has never quite made up its mind about the worth of clever people. But the most fascinating of them all is the Cabinet Office, lying at the very hub of Whitehall, it is both the mainspring and the oil-can of the machinery of government. Tiny, powerful, shrouded in secrecy, run by a succession of dominating figures, relatively little is known about an institution which is the closest Britain has come to having a prime minister's department.

So firmly is the Cabinet Office embedded in the constellation of Whitehall departments that it is surprising to discover how recent an arrival it is. Certainly when compared to the constitutional device of cabinet government which stretches back in a clear line to the early eighteenth century. Founded with little fanfare nearly 60 years ago in December 1916 as an inspired piece of Lloyd George's "ad hocery", it represented an undramatic reform which, in the words of Sir George Mallaby, brought a degree of "indispensable articulation" to the machinery of government.

Modelled on the Committee of Imperial Defence, the office provided the Cabinet for the first time with an agenda and minutes of its conclusions. It was run by a remarkable marine called Maurice Hankey and 10 assistant secretaries. Viewed from the perspective of 1976, Hankey's outfit looks rudimentary, merely a collection of scribes with the chief scribe, carrying a great bag with the prime minister's day for personal reasons. But at the time, the nascent Cabinet Office, a reform all except Asquith thought long overdue, transformed the handling of government business. Vastly more applied describing Hankey as "Secretary of the Cabinet" and "the man who got the Government a repository of information." He had an incredible memory... an official brand which could reproduce, on call the date, file, substance of every paper that ever flew into a pigeon-hole.

After experiencing the very personal pressure of the office, every one who remains quite so impressed. Bona Law, coming in as Prime Minister in 1922, coupled the Cabinet Office in his mind with the "garden suburb", the collection of huts on the back lawn of Number 10 which housed the private political office of the prime minister. It was another manifestation of the nascent personal aggrandisement. Law found a powerful ally in Hankey's wilful rival, Warren Fisher, Head of the Civil Service, who wanted to absorb the Cabinet Secretariat into the Treasury.

Hankey and his machine survived as an independent unit—but only just. From its wartime peak of 165 committees serviced by a staff of about 160, it shrivelled, under Law, to two standing committees, the Home Affairs and the Home Affairs, with a staff of 28. Baldwin and Macdonald made some additions in the fields of civil research and economics, but Herbert Morrison was fully justified in describing the apparatus as primitive when he took office in the first time in the Labour Government of 1929.

The Second World War, once more, transformed the Cabinet Office as it did the entire structure of central government. First Anderson then Arthur Greenwood, then Lord Salisbury, virtually as "Prime Minister for the Home Front" leaving Churchill to run the war with the chiefs of staff and the admirable General Ismay. The Cabinet Office came fully into its own as the supreme co-ordinating and planning agency, a pre-eminence it has never lost since.

Curious primitive touches still remained, however. Churchill was appalling at summing up Cabinet meetings and ministers quite often treated the minutes as a record of their own rather than instructions. The office, at this time, was run by the inspirational, artistic Edward Bridges. The present Prime Minister was joint secretary to the manpower requirements committee and had a special responsibility for the period. He particularly remembers the day when Bridges asked him to write up the minutes of a Cabinet meeting which Mr Wilson protested he had not attended. Bridges handed him a list of illegible notes and observed airily, "Don't worry, it wouldn't be any better if you had been there." The 24-year-old Mr Wilson duly obliged. He clearly relishes his time in Richmond Terrace where the office was then billeted, and often refers to it as present-day Cabinets. He was once asked if he ever regret not having taken the offer of a permanent Civil Service job in the Cabinet Office after the war? "I don't know," replied Mr Wilson, with a faint trace of a smile. "I couldn't have stood the intrigue!"

In contrast to 1922, there was no question of dismantling the Cabinet Office at the end of the Second World War. Anderson wrote an internal report recommending its retention and development. Arthur accepted it and reorganised the secretariat and the standing committees in 1947. The only faint repetition of the inter-war period came in the form of the slightly sour relationship that emerged between Bridges, who gave up the post of Cabinet Secretary after the war to concentrate on running the Treasury and the Civil Service and his successor, Norman Brook. There was a difference of temperament between the two men, the dry, fastidious Brook was a machine man par excellence. He drafted the definitive manual for Cabinet minute makers, exhorting them to be terse and scrupulously brief. There was more to it than that, however, and Brook was not alone in his growing scepticism of the Treasury and

The Cabinet Office

A magnificent piece of powerful bureaucratic machinery



Sir John Hunt, Secretary of the Cabinet: a sentinel guarding the corridor linking the Cabinet office and Number 10 Downing Street.

all its works. The political significance of the frequently quirky relationships between permanent secretaries in the "top hamper" is too easily ignored. Dislocations at this level can have significant repercussions for the Government as well as for the Civil Service. What they go well as they did with Brook's successor, Burke Trend, and William Armstrong, who was first at the Treasury and then the Civil Service Department—the two were close friends and sympathetic colleagues who held the central machine together for 10 years—it ceases to be a potentially disruptive force. The present "big three", Sir John Hunt, Sir Douglas Allen from the Civil Service Department and Sir Douglas Wess from the Treasury, together every Monday in the Cabinet Office Mess.

The Cabinet Office remained much of its Committee of Imperial Defence flavour into the post-war years. Suez was for its staff, as for others, a watershed. In 1966, symbolically it ceased to be responsible for organizing and servicing the Commonwealth Prime Minister's Conference. Increasingly, the office came to be preoccupied with the economy, the central issue of British politics. Whitehall has not failed to notice the accretion of power in this field to the Cabinet Office under Lord Trend and his successor Sir John Hunt.

The increase in the office's staff numbers, very nearly half of whom are in the Central Statistical Office, from 407 to 681 between 1965 and the present day tells but part of the story. The Cabinet Office rarely initiates policy, but a succession of the most trying issues that have taxed successive governments over the past 10 years have been handled there at their most crucial stages: Europe, Northern Ireland, counter-inflation policy, industrial policy and now devolution. The office is staff with permanent secretaries, deputy secretaries and under secretaries of the first rank, recruited on secondment from a wide variety of government departments, who are more than mere minute-takers. Whether it requires fine-tuning or knocking heads together, this is where policy is invariably handled in its final stages.

These developments have been conscious and carried out with the approval of both Mr Wilson and Mr Heath, with varying degrees of acceptance of the part of departmental ministers. The Cabinet Office argument, which has held sway, concentrates on the need to strengthen the centre against the huge "jumble" departments, like environment, health and Social Security and Defence. Every department is tied up to adopt the common metaphor which sees Whitehall as a village—in the street where powerful, competing families can resolve their differences in a civilized manner under the guidance of a benign, independent chairman.

Last year, by way of illustration, the draft of both the white papers on industry and incomes were eventually prepared by Cabinet official committees under the chairmanship of a Cabinet Office deputy secretary. When the time came for the final decision, the Labour Party is invariably tied up with the appointment of political advisers to act as a "Counter-Whitehall" and runs as follows: The Prime Minister is more than just the chairman of the Cabinet. He needs, on occasion, to take on his colleagues, who have all the resources of their departments at their disposal. To do this, he needs more ammunition than the steering briefs provided by the Cabinet Office. He is not just Prime Minister but leader of the ruling party in Parliament and must always have an eye on the next election. Policies which suit the Whitehall machine do not always fit the political requirements of his party, placing him doubly in need of a deputy minister to take the whole range of his prime ministerial wares.

The future founder of a Prime Minister's Department would not have to start cold. The Central Policy Review Staff represents a flourishing embryo,

which, like all enclosed communities, devotes a great deal of time and energy to gossip and the attaching of labels to its *bella figura*, the aggrandisement of the Cabinet Office in the past 10 years has led to Lord Trend and Sir John Hunt being cast in the Imperial role, though the two men are often contrasted: Trend as the intellectual, Hunt as the dynamo. "Burke Trend was a Borzoi", "Trend was Byronic, like Rothschild, Hunt is a sixteenth century cardinal with a touch of the Borgias", are two of the more vivid characterizations.

The relationship between the Cabinet Office and the other government departments is delicate and fluctuating. There is clearly a Cabinet Office art that has grown up to cope with it. One of its most eminent practitioners in the past described it as removing the "hidden holders" that might otherwise disturb the smooth flow of Cabinet business. One of the most skilful of its current exponents outlines its requirements in this way:

"If there are signs that the department which is leading on a particular subject has got into a bit of a muddle or has got too close to the thing, you need a sharp eye and a good nose for discovering just the right moment to ring up and say 'Why not have a meeting?' Very often this generates an almost spontaneous desire to pull the thing together even though the department concerned may have created blood in getting it this far. The managerial approach developed by John Hunt, particularly in economic affairs, means that the Cabinet Office tends to be in all the front-line fights. But we always have to carry the rest of Whitehall with us. If the departments gang up on us, we would always be defeated."

It is not only in Whitehall that anxieties have been aroused about the "overmighty subject". Ministers from both major parties have been heard to engage in anti-federal muttering about the power of the Cabinet Office. Some Labour ministers returning to office in 1974 after three-and-a-half years in the wilderness were taken aback by the growth of its stature and of its 118 official committees. The Prime Minister was not prone to this particular allergy but, as an old Cabinet Office traditionalist, he quickly put an end to the blurring of distinctions between official committees and ministerial committees that had occurred under Mr Heath. Some of the more astute Whitehall watchers were not so sanguine as their leader. "Every department is tied up to adopt the common metaphor which sees Whitehall as a village—in the street where powerful, competing families can resolve their differences in a civilized manner under the guidance of a benign, independent chairman."

When pressed to suggest a remedy, the would-be reformers usually came up with the idea of a Prime Minister's Department. Mr Heath, urged by his Treasury-Cabinet Office-Civil Service Department nexus, turned down the idea but was tempted by the possibility of having his own permanent secretary who had been in Number 10, though he did nothing about it. The argument within the Labour Party is invariably tied up with the appointment of political advisers to act as a "Counter-Whitehall" and runs as follows: The Prime Minister is more than just the chairman of the Cabinet. He needs, on occasion, to take on his colleagues, who have all the resources of their departments at their disposal. To do this, he needs more ammunition than the steering briefs provided by the Cabinet Office. He is not just Prime Minister but leader of the ruling party in Parliament and must always have an eye on the next election. Policies which suit the Whitehall machine do not always fit the political requirements of his party, placing him doubly in need of a deputy minister to take the whole range of his prime ministerial wares.

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and has received the benefit both Mr Wilson and Mr Heath. "Think Tank" is now firmly established and has found a home in the Cabinet Office. "We constantly work at it", says Sir John Hunt, "but it is a brilliant, selective, first class committee man as much more with the Whitehall Sir Kenneth is not one to ever strength of his clever young women." "You cannot expect butterflies and two old moths on half a million civil servants is a danger of putting what as too grand," he says. "But do offend the department, some we would not be doing our job are pockets of resistance. You have butterflies nibbling at other 'old moth' in his fessor Dick Ross talks about the tangling, elucidatory role of their short, cabinet papers, a medium term strategy, few discernible effect, though only five per cent of their efforts is made public to date.

Another possible focus for Prime Minister's Department Wilson's own policy unit, 15 strong team in Number 10, and of the other 20 or so special scattered around the department a highly favourable in upon the Whitehall regulars was set up under Dr Donoghue in March 1974. It acts on a wide range of official committees and, like the CPS, won a reputation for putting class ideas, mainly dealing with term issues, that have influenced the course of the Cabinet's. Clearly, the CPS and the P combined contain the effect of a difference in the government should a new Minister choose to avail himself of their joint talents.

No such outcome is likely immediate future, however, earning assumption in the Office is that the notion of Minister's Department is a rational nonsense, that would be. The argument put forward by regulars is that the Prime Minister has no executive function in law, power is parcelled out to departments. The Prime Minister is a different kind of power, a power that comes from his authority as leader. Cabinet which steers towards decisions. For his part, I like a powerful Cabinet Office himself on knowing what is in the other departments and to burden himself with any work than that generated by the Cabinet Office, CPS, the P and his own five private secretaries. Number 10. He has a mark for what he calls the "net set up in the White House 3,000 staff."

The normal gestation period in Whitehall is about though the machine can do with remarkable celerity. The future organization of government, the Cabinet, bound to emerge a power in Lloyd George's brainchild, matured. It will continue to be the best talent in Whitehall, side over the magnificent. So long as the Cabinet survives, the minutes will be set and distributed, producing the Whitehall into action. Cabinet and Cabinet Committee. At eight, one and five the brown vans will go to the green boxes. Whichever stances, like Wells Fargo, always get through.

Peter H.
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Bowls

Bryant defeats Watson as final gesture

Johannesburg, March 7.—South Africa completed a clean sweep at the men's world bowls championships here yesterday when they won the fourth gold medal by beating England 19-13 in the 15th and final match. They had already taken the gold in the singles, pairs and triples and won the Leonard Trophy for overall placing.

But as a last gesture England's David Bryant handed South Africa's Doug Watson his first defeat of the series in the final round by 21 shots to 10. Australia took the silver medals in the singles and four's games, England the bronze in both events.

In the four's Australia were beaten 25-16 by South Africa in the 14th round yesterday morning. Although both countries had equal points, having lost one game, the South Africans took the gold on net score of 4218 against Australia's 4142. In their afternoon game against England, the South Africans left it to the last few ends to bring off a win.

The Englishmen—Peter Line, Thomas Armstrong, William Irish and John Evans—put up a valiant fight and went into the final end one shot behind, but in a tense finish, with Gatti drawing two shots, one of which was taken out by Armstrong, the English narrowly missed taking out South Africa's shot.

SINGLES: South Africa 14 pts, 10 shots, 1000; Australia 13 pts, 10 shots, 1000; England 12 pts, 10 shots, 1000; New Zealand 11 pts, 10 shots, 1000; Rhodesia 10 pts, 10 shots, 1000; Malaysia 9 pts, 10 shots, 1000; Malawi 8 pts, 10 shots, 1000; Malawi 7 pts, 10 shots, 1000; Malawi 6 pts, 10 shots, 1000; Malawi 5 pts, 10 shots, 1000; Malawi 4 pts, 10 shots, 1000; Malawi 3 pts, 10 shots, 1000; Malawi 2 pts, 10 shots, 1000; Malawi 1 pt, 10 shots, 1000.

Water polo
STOCKHOLM: West Germany 9, Britain 1.

Skiing

Miss Mittermaier reaches the top of her mountain

Copper Mountain, March 7.—Rosi Mittermaier, of West Germany, added the World Cup to her two Olympic gold medals with a victory in the final slalom of the season here in Colorado. "It's the greatest day of my life. The World Cup is my aim for so long. It's the finest reward a skier can win," she said after her triumph yesterday.

By adding the World Cup title as more important than her Olympic medals, Miss Mittermaier agreed with the view of Jean Claude Killy, of France, the last person to complete the World Cup and Olympic double. In 1968 Killy won all three gold medals at the Olympics in Grenoble and rated his World Cup victory as the more important.

After Killy, Miss Mittermaier has taken a long time to reach the top. Killy waited six years for his first big victory, Miss Mittermaier for 10. Her win in yesterday's slalom was only her third this season in the World Cup.

Her overall dominance has been built on her astonishing regularity matched only by Ingemar Stenmark, of Sweden, who is known as the "microphone of the snow". To win, Miss Mittermaier had to finish no lower than fourth today. She was second after the first leg, almost had a second down on Miss Moroder, her main rival for the overall and slalom titles.

Miss Mittermaier was then helped by the failure of Miss Moroder, who lost much time on the second run of 58 gates. Miss Kaserer, with Miss Mittermaier one of the most experienced girls on the circuit, produced a fast second leg to take second place. Miss Mittermaier has not yet

decided whether she will retire from competition at the end of the season, but she is seriously considering the possibility. But her future is already assured. "Since the Olympics I have had an avalanche of financial proposals and I have had to engage a lawyer to protect my interests," she said.

A representative of Mark McCormack, an American lawyer, who handles the affairs of some of the world's top professional sportsmen, said here: "Her impact on the crowds is excellent. People love her because she is always smiling and because she looks happy to be alive."

WOMEN'S SLALOM: 1. R. Mittermaier (GDR), 1:19.40; 2. J. Kaserer (Austria), 1:20.40; 3. J. Moroder (Austria), 1:21.40; 4. J. Kaserer (Austria), 1:22.40; 5. J. Moroder (Austria), 1:23.40; 6. J. Kaserer (Austria), 1:24.40; 7. J. Moroder (Austria), 1:25.40; 8. J. Kaserer (Austria), 1:26.40; 9. J. Moroder (Austria), 1:27.40; 10. J. Kaserer (Austria), 1:28.40.

WORLD CUP PLACINGS (to date): 1. R. Mittermaier (GDR), 2:29.40; 2. J. Kaserer (Austria), 2:30.40; 3. J. Moroder (Austria), 2:31.40; 4. J. Kaserer (Austria), 2:32.40; 5. J. Moroder (Austria), 2:33.40; 6. J. Kaserer (Austria), 2:34.40; 7. J. Moroder (Austria), 2:35.40; 8. J. Kaserer (Austria), 2:36.40; 9. J. Moroder (Austria), 2:37.40; 10. J. Kaserer (Austria), 2:38.40.

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WOMEN'S SLALOM: 1. R. Mittermaier (GDR), 1:19.40; 2. J. Kaserer (Austria), 1:20.40; 3. J. Moroder (Austria), 1:21.40; 4. J. Kaserer (Austria), 1:22.40; 5. J. Moroder (Austria), 1:23.40; 6. J. Kaserer (Austria), 1:24.40; 7. J. Moroder (Austria), 1:25.40; 8. J. Kaserer (Austria), 1:26.40; 9. J. Moroder (Austria), 1:27.40; 10. J. Kaserer (Austria), 1:28.40.

Songs of praise, off-key notes and significant silences at the Soviet congress

Whatever else the twenty-fifth Soviet Communist Party Congress may have accomplished, it left Mr. Brezhnev more firmly in the saddle than ever, and with no present plans to relinquish power. Far more than at the twenty-fourth congress in 1971, this was his party. He was in thorough command of his faculties and of the leadership. The 25,000-word report for the Central Committee delivered on the first day was the high water mark of the congress—virtually all that came afterwards was in descending order. The Foreign Minister, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, sat silent and impassive while Mr. Brezhnev spent two hours expounding foreign policy. Mr. Brezhnev devoted another two hours to the economy and the new five-year plan, stealing the thunder of Mr. Alexei Kosygin, the Prime Minister, whose report on these subjects was the following main item on the agenda.

Almost all the 106 speakers in the discussion that followed threw verbal bouquets at Mr. Brezhnev.

The Azerbaijan party secretary, Mr. Geidar Aliyev, since

named a candidate member of the Politburo, said: "Leonid Brezhnev, by his wisdom, principles, boundless energy and organizing talent, modesty and simplicity... has gained the love and gratitude of the entire Soviet people. The Georgian secretary, Mr. Eduard Chervanadze, said: "He (Mr. Brezhnev) never wraps himself in the cloak of superman."

In projecting Soviet policy for the coming years, Mr. Brezhnev was also providing guidelines for the Soviet bloc countries and, as he saw it, the world communist movement. He hoped these lines would counteract the divisive tendencies that have so far prevented calling of a conference of European communist parties. These differences surfaced at the congress, which might have been one big love feast but for the off-key notes injected by advocates of autonomy for each national party, as opposed to the close-knit Marxist-Leninist movement advocated by the Soviet leadership and still supported by varying degrees by the majority of parties. The Romanian, Yugoslav, Italian and French representatives

spoke, in that order, in favour of autonomy, and the small British party proved a sobering presence.

The most eloquent voice, and one which rose above the tired, repetitious flood of oratory, was that of the Italian party secretary, Signor Enrico Berlinguer. He shocked true believers by his flagrant defence of the parliamentary democracy, his advocacy of sharing power on an equal footing with parties of different political persuasion and ideology, and respect for civil liberties. Signor Berlinguer and the others saved their remarks with approving words for Soviet economic progress and the policy of détente. None of them made critical or impolite remarks about the Soviet Union. Mr. Brezhnev in turn took a tolerant attitude and invited Signor Berlinguer to a friendly meeting. A showdown was thus avoided. But Signor Berlinguer's remarks are likely to echo long after most congress speeches have been forgotten.

The twenty-fifth congress will also be remembered by what was left unsaid. Though the congress unanimously endorsed

the continuation of détente and peaceful coexistence as expounded in Mr. Brezhnev's report, neither Mr. Brezhnev nor any other speaker, not even Dr. Fidel Castro, so much as mentioned, let alone discussed, the most critical, controversial, and potentially explosive new departure in communist world strategy, that might yet blot out the sky high—the intervention of 12,000 Cuban troops in Angola.

There were other gaps, including a credibility gap on arms. While Mr. Brezhnev's references to relations with the United States were in the main positive and optimistic, he noted that allegations of "an increasing Soviet threat" were being used as pretext for increased United States military expenditure. He denounced such allegations as "a monstrous lie... the Soviet Union has not the slightest intention of attacking anyone." He added: "The Soviet Union does not increase its military budget." He did not comment on the recent data published in the West on the Soviet naval build up and other increases in Soviet arms. Nor did Mr. Kosygin's report on the

new five-year plan give any room to defence expenditure, as if this was negligible.

Neither Mr. Brezhnev nor Mr. Kosygin referred specifically to the disastrous 1975 harvest shortfall, dramatized by the dismissal of the Agriculture Minister, Mr. Dmitri Polyanskiy, from the Politburo. Nor was there any mention of the consequent massive purchases of foreign grain. The 15-year plan for economic development up to the year 1990 received only passing mention by Mr. Brezhnev, though the State Planning Commission has been concentrating on the draft for at least three years.

The final act of the congress was the election of a committee of 287 members, of whom 204 were re-elected and 41 were candidate members. This compared with a 241-member committee elected at the twenty-fourth congress. The party leadership team, save for minor shifts, remained essentially the same. No bets are being placed on its durability. The average age is now 66. By the twenty-fifth congress Mr. Brezhnev will be nearing 75.

Edmund Stevens

Should the Liberals ever consider a coalition?

We have just passed the second anniversary of the first 1974 general election. Two years ago last week the nation pondered on the inconclusive outcome of the election and Mr. Heath delayed his departure from Number 10 till his overtures to the Liberals for an "anti-socialist front" had been considered. Two years is an eternity in politics and I have found myself solemnly asked at recent public meetings whether in view of subsequent events I now regret our decision to say no to participation in Mr. Heath's Government in March 1974.

Those who ask the question have invariably forgotten the precise circumstances. For a start there was the vital fact that 256 Conservatives plus 14 Liberals meant a government short of a bare majority in the Commons, and while a single-party minority government proved possible for eight months, a coalition minority government would have been a fragile creature indeed.

Then there was the background to the February election. It had been called by a Prime Minister nowhere near the end of his five year parliament who sought a mandate from the people for his three day week confrontation with the miners, and was denied it. (However much the blame may not personally have been Mr. Heath's that was how it seemed.) To have sustained that Prime Minister in office would have been dubious democracy to put it mildly.

Finally, even if only considering the most selfish interests of

the Liberal Party, there was no promise of electoral reform: without it our party could not survive a coalition with the Conservatives in any circumstances.

So for all these reasons if the precise events of two years ago repeated themselves tomorrow I still believe we would be right to act as we did then. Where I think we went wrong was in the preliminary to the October election. Here I find myself largely in agreement with the conclusions of the Butler-Cavanagh study of that second 1974 election. In the summer of 1974 with the Liberals still the largest balancing force in the Commons, a stymied government, and a deteriorating economy it was obvious that an election could not be long delayed. Then, the Butler book records, on June 25 I made as then Liberal chief whip, a party political broadcast including these carefully considered words:

"In our crisis we surely need a much more broadly based government, backed by a real majority of public opinion." My argument was that the fight against inflation could not be waged successfully by any government narrowly based on one minority party. I continued:

"I find the public demand for a government of national unity is now gaining considerable force, but it can only come about if we get more Liberals in Parliament. We are ready and willing to participate in such a government if at the next election you give us the power to do so. Naturally, like the other parties, we would

prefer an overall majority of seats, but we remain ready to contribute towards the kind of fair government based on partnership which you, the electorate, might be seeking. Any party which refused to consider this would be seeking to put power for their own party before the will of the people."

The effect was electric. The broadcast received full and mainly favourable coverage in the press over the next two or three days. In precisely that period the Opinion Research Centre was doing the fieldwork for its July poll, which showed a jump in Liberal support from 18 to 22 per cent. Christopher Mayhew joined the party the following week. Things were looking up because we had struck exactly the right chord with the public.

But, observed David Butler: "This was sprung on an unprepared party." I accept that criticism and my full share of responsibility for it. But that comment overlooks the virtual impossibility (as both Jo Grimond and Jeremy Thorpe have successfully experienced) of preparing the Liberal Party for anything. Its organs have a compulsive tendency to confide in the nearest journalist as soon as a meeting is over. This imposes severe limitations on serious advance discussions of political strategy.

On June 29 the party executive resolved that: "The Liberal Party will not join a coalition with the Conservative or Labour parties separately and will make this clear at the next election." This was the 28th party council declared itself against a grand coalition, and was silent on a possible two party arrangement.

Both bodies (more) the twin facts that an coalition would not be with either of them but that their postures were

contradictory. The Liberal Party would not join a coalition with the Conservative or Labour parties separately and will make this clear at the next election. This was the 28th party council declared itself against a grand coalition, and was silent on a possible two party arrangement.

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Albert Speer: Putting the past in its proper place

Albert Speer's *Spandau: The Secret Diaries*—a book distilled from 25,000 scraps of paper smuggled out of the most elaborately guarded prison in the world—is to be published in Britain next week.

Herr Speer, who will be 71 in the same week, was a favourite of Hitler, serving him first as consultant architect, then as "trouble-shooter" for major construction projects including the Atlantic wall, and finally as Reich minister for armaments.

At the Nuremberg Trials he was sentenced to 20 years because his last post had made him the principal exploiter of slave labour. A year before the war ended, he began sending Hitler a series of increasingly emphatic memoranda saying defeat was inevitable, which made him unique among the Fuehrer's entourage.

He worked out a scheme to assassinate Hitler by introducing poison gas into the ventilation system of the Chancellery bunker which was foiled at the last minute by a sudden order from Hitler himself to have the system rebuilt. The organizers of the failed plot on Hitler's life of July 20, 1944, put Herr Speer on their list of suspects for conspiracy administration.

He was also unique among the Nuremberg defendants in acknowledging his guilt without reservation. He regards his punishment as fair.

He served the full term, without remission, from October 1, 1946, to midnight on September 30, 1966, almost all of it in the grim prison at Spandau in the British Sector of West Berlin.

The *Diaries* are a record of Herr Speer's struggle to retain a healthy mind in a healthy body by coming to terms with the past, coping with the present in prison, and preparing for the future.

That he had won his struggle was immediately apparent when he answered the door at his home in the hills above Heidelberg to give *The Times* an exclusive interview. Over 6ft tall, straight-backed and broad-shouldered, with thinning grey hair, stark black eyebrows and a tanned complexion, Herr Speer could be taken for 60 or less.

The house, an unremarkable villa built by his architect father in 1905, has an air of gentle melancholy. The relative darkness of the living room on a bright winter's morning was accentuated by the sombre tones of the furniture. But the spectacular views of Heidelberg and the Neckar Valley from the house and its large garden restore the balance.

Lodgers live upstairs, and one of Herr Speer's six children occupies a converted garage building in the garden. A gambolling tank of a St Bernard dog, which subjects the visitor to a friendly assault, also lives upstairs. Herr Speer's freedom. "I like to have plenty of company these days," he said.

He also likes to keep himself occupied. "I must always have something to do. It proves it is possible to return to my first love, architecture, when I am released. The gap was too great. He is now at work on two more books, on the economics of war and arms production, which he hopes to publish in five years, and an architectural treatise on the history of the window, which he began in jail.

He has given up gardening, one of the means he chose to keep himself busy in Spandau, but still takes long walks in the hills and forests round his home. In jail, he walked at least the equivalent of the circumference of the earth. As he walked up and down the prison yard, counting off kilometres, he marched in his mind across Europe and Asia, over the frozen Bering Straits to Alaska and down the American continent. He borrowed books about the places on his "route" as fuel for his imagination.

In his cell, he wrote ceaselessly, accumulating the material not only for the *Diaries* but also for his memoirs, *Inside the Third Reich*, published in 1969.

"I wrote in my diary that life ended for me in May 1945," said Herr Speer. "I don't believe that any more, and it is the success of my books which has helped me most." The German edition of the *Diaries* has sold nearly 250,000 in seven months.

"I have been very lucky to find a third career (after architect and government) in writing. I don't have any ambitions left—I don't feel the need to take up a fourth occupation to prove I'm not totally stupid."

Apart from a long line of elegant lamps on one of Berlin's main streets and the occasional abandoned bunker on the western coast of Europe, nothing remains of Herr Speer's architectural and construction work except plans and photographs of models, now in the West German federal archive with all his other papers. A book on the lamps was published last year and obviously pleased him enormously.

"If it hadn't been for Hitler, I would probably have become professor of architecture at some university or other, and would have been pleased to get the odd mention in a professional journal. But one of Hitler's positive points was his capacity for making people achieve things they never dreamed they were capable of. He opened up a vision of power for me and I succumbed to the temptation. Many young men would have done the same."

What was the secret of Hitler's fascination for an intelligent, independent-minded and resourceful man like Speer? "He could grasp the kernel of a situation extremely quickly. He showed me alarm when I was in danger, he inspired trust and amazing loyalty and dispersed

double. I am not that a sufficient explanation. I can't explain love and loyalty."

Herr Speer regretted, among many things, that Hitler was a man of colossal energy. "Just as the romanticized Napoleon should remember that a human being was not as such of his crimes."

For similar reasons Speer regrets the death of the Russians of the Red Army he designed, "because it was beautiful, overblown—but because it had served a master."

He also regrets the Mussolini's triumph which was quite clearly a disaster for the world. The association Hitler-Speer was quite clearly a disaster for the world. The association Hitler-Speer was quite clearly a disaster for the world.

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Warmest congratulations on the successful opening of the Daily Necessities Fair of The People's Republic of China at Olympia, London

热烈祝贺中华人民共和国日用品展览会在伦敦胜利开幕

from

Canton Chinese Restaurant	Cheung's Clansmen Charity (Europe) Ass.
Chiao Kwan Trading Co.	China Beauty Salon
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Fung Shing Chinese Restaurant	Y. C. Wu
Gerrard Chinese Restaurant	Golden Palace Restaurant
Greet Wall Chinese Food Supermarket	Guanghua Company
Ho Ho Restaurant	Hong Kong Cultural & Service
Hong Kong Printing Co.	Hong Kong Supermarket
Jade Garden Chinese Restaurant	Kam-Chuen Lew
Kwong Shang Lung Co. Ltd.	Lee Fook Electric Co.
Lee Ho Fook Chinese Restaurant	Lido Chinese Restaurant
Loon Fung Restaurant Ltd.	Loon Fung Supermarket Ltd.
Lucky Chinese Restaurant	Nan King Restaurant (Brighton)
Oriental Store	Overseas Trust Bank Ltd. (London Branch)
P. C. Mak & Co.	Poons' & Co. Restaurant
See Woo Hong Chinese Supermarket	Wah Mou Trading Co.
Wai Kee Fish Bar	Wen Tai Sun Co. Ltd.
Wong Kei Restaurant	

How the foundation of Middle East conflict was laid

The fourth and penultimate volume of the monumental official history of British foreign policy in the Second World War is published today. It describes with the expected authority and detail, the birth and childhood of the intractable foreign policy problems that bedevil us now that they are adult today, from the Middle East to Argentina and from China to Peru. There may be no present answers to be found in such a pious record of the seeds of conflict. But the truth as seen from the Foreign Office contains lessons and warnings about how to manage our affairs better and avoid falling into some of the old pits we dug for ourselves. For example, this volume deals with British policy, or

rather lack of policy, towards nascent Zionism. During the war the British Government procrastinated and contrived to hold in suspense the vexed questions of Jewish immigration and the political status of Palestine. It was not until 1947 that the British Government was forced to make a decision. The decision was not easy to carry out in view of persistent Zionist agitation in the United States, and the influence of the large American Jewish vote on the United States Government. This Zionist agitation provoked a corresponding increase in the intensity of Arab nationalism. And the documents show that the British Government was repeatedly having to point out to the United States Government that it was urging upon the Zionists a policy which would lead to civil war in Palestine, while the Americans were refusing any practical share in putting this policy into effect.

The War Cabinet appointed a ministerial committee in June 1943 to consider what solution to put forward after the war. The committee reported in favour of the partition of Palestine, but the Foreign Office opposed its recommendation as unfair to the Arabs. No agreement on British policy had, therefore, been reached by the end of the war. The chance of an agreed solution was lost. And the stage was set for chaos, and for the infant Middle Eastern conflict to grow into the dangerous monster that threatens the world today.

Another instructive and minimal foreign policy conflict was tangled around Allied policy towards the Arab states. British policy towards Saudi Arabia in particular was regarded with some suspicion by the United States, especially by President Roosevelt, who thought that Great Britain's long-established relations with King Ibn Saud and our protection of the Moslem pilgrim routes amounted to old-fashioned imperialism. In British eyes the policy of the United States seemed hardly less imperialistic, in relation to the emergence of a new interest of the American Government in Arabia, resulting from the very large oil concessions obtained by American companies. It was a classic and interesting example of disparate meanings being attached to that most flabby of modern political value words, imperialism.

This volume of the history deals with policy towards Spain, Argentina, Turkey, China the countries of the East. It illustrates the fairness as well as the piousness of the Foreign Office to advise the Government during the war. And it shows yet again how power the sane, reason of good will at the Office have to steer when the politicians' official and violent raving.

Philip Eli
British Foreign Policy
Second World War
Llewellyn Woodward,
ery Office, £9.

The Times Diary

Sunday morning with Charlotte



The lovely Charlotte Rampling

Among the great pleasures of this job are the occasional invitations I receive to attend the Dorchester Hotel on Sundays for pre-lunch drinks, to meet some new female cinematic sensation, invariably described on the invitation as "lovely" (They usually are, but there must be a less used word for it.) The magnet yesterday was "lovely British star Charlotte Rampling", also described on the press release as the "new Queen of Hollywood". She was there to publicise her role as the arch-villain in Raymond Chandler's *Farewell My Lovely*, in which she is indeed stunning. Newcomers to the Sunday functions find it hard to pick up the relaxed routine. A woman from *The Sun*, there for the first time, was baffled by the lack of immediate action as Miss Rampling, wearing a long-jacketed blue suit, slyly redolent of the thirties, came and sipped a drink.

"Is anything going to happen?" she whispered to me. "You look fairly inspired." (It must have been either my extremely old denim suit or the 22.75 hair I had in Shafesbury Avenue last week.) As the snow sped lightly past the window, Miss Rampling was photographed indoors, and then, bravely but briefly, on the verandah. Next she settled down with the reporters.

The biography given to reporters noted that Miss Rampling was "only in her 20s", which I thought impressive seeing that a few lines later it gave her birth date as February, 1946. I challenged her about this and she admitted to 30, adding that it was a watershed age. "After you're out of your 20s you can't make excuses any more," she said. She told him and us that she was planning to get him some company by starting another baby soon.

Not for a long time—since 1965, to be exact—have there been so many serving British ambassadors kicking their heels in London. Last week's repatriation on the ground of personal unacceptability of Sir Martin Le Queux, our man in Lagos, brings the total of withdrawn ambassadors, or equivalent, to four.

The first back to base was Reginald Second, recalled from Santiago, Chile, on December 30 in protest at the torture of Dr Sheila Cassidy in January 14, the Government of Argentina stated that the withdrawal of our Derrick Ashe

from Buenos Aires was "advisable" a hint duly acted on. He had aroused Argentinean anger by dispatching Lord Shackleton on an economic mission to the Falkland Islands, the British colony long claimed by Argentina. Then, on February 19, Iceland broke diplomatic relations over the cod war, rendering the British ambassador in Reykjavik, Kenneth East, redundant pending an amicable solution of the undignified squabble.

Sir Martin went to Lagos in March, 1974, and would normally have had another year there before retirement. Ashe and East are expected to return, as soon as normal relations can be re-established. Second's return to Santiago seems more problematic, since the Government are not going to be in a hurry to be seen to be nice to the Chilean junta.

The British Council operate a neat Catch-22 when distributing payments to their pensioners. A notice accompanying the payments reads: "IMPORTANT—if the envelope contains money, check the amount before opening. Claims for shortage will not be considered if the staple or flap have been disturbed."

Party time
On Friday, the day the Northern Ireland Convention was wound up, they held a merry celebration at the Ulster office in Mayfair. They gave many good parties there, and the date of this one was coincidental. It was international day of the rugby between Ireland and England at Twickenham. The rugby team is one of the few all-Ireland institutions. The match is held in London every

two years, and the last time the party at the Ulster Office, off the Irish Embassy, "st fine" anybody using here. "I was told times, and it seemed as I would not, for most guests were ribald rogues and camp followers in dinner jackets being allowed out on the town without the usual man from the office."

Most of the political who might have attended over, were caught up in the Irish Prime Minister for talks at Downing Street, though, I saw down a man from Rees's office—very easily enough by the look in his eyes.

He seemed fairly about the ending of it. "All these executives, assemblies, etc. as though we're setting exams for the Irish—and they always next day Ireland just match and there was an attack on Belfast. Having flunked the exam pupils were trying to return to duty," says a civil servant who is not a member of the standard letter sent Department of Health Security in its day staff. "While I have no doubt that you will suppose that you are all sick leave before a day of service is ended, that staff are not in the classroom again."



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ISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Freedom ought steadily growing, yet the evidence past decade has been dis- to some extent other is have seemed more im- Nevertheless conscience anywhere be found alive pensive as Mr Solzhenitsyn has shown. Threats ical freedom have always What is new in our era systems of government ke out the future as their session, claiming to offer s and expecting the price sion to be accepted or ked. Governments of inds, whether or not they any political doctrine, so care nothing for politi- dom and put away those slike or fear. The political may thus be regarded as ntol of repression, as the ction of a limitation on l freedom. All political s everywhere must be the a of those who care for

Times publishes today the a weekly series that will a story of individual poli- sioners wherever they are Mr Ashok Mehta, a man ent and generally respect- years past in Indian poli- ife, is one such prisoner under Mrs Gandhi's emer- Many of the prisoners will be less well known e is; some will be entirely

E KURDS PAY THE PRICE

ar ago, observers were shed by the public ce, at the Opac summit ence in Algiers, of the Iran and the Vice-Presi- of Iraq, Mr Saddam Hussein A conflict which had d second only to that in the Arabs and Israel in ture of national and ideo- venom was suddenly and unexpectedly resolved by prehensive agreement. The was naturally incredulous, ding that one side or other wriggle out of its bargain, at the formulae adopted be differently interpreted ch side and the agreement wittily collapse.

has not happened. On the ary, the agreement has rigorously applied by both s, in the letter and in the t, and it appears that each out of it more or less e wanted. The Shah has Dant only the rectification of ontier which he had long ed in the Shatt al-Arab, lso a cessation of Iraqi ganda against him and a al re-orientation of Iraqi policy. Iraq now has smooth relations not only ran but with Saudi Arabia he various emirates of the (though a certain tension s with Kuwait), and has established diplomatic rela- with the Sultan of Oman, denounced as a stooge ish and Iranian imperial- The destructive force of e foreign policy is now e towards the rival Baath e in Syria. Relations with Vest have improved, while with Moscow have percep- eoled.

The Iraqi Baathists, of e, the great compensating has been the defeat of the sh revolt. For the first

obscure. The publicity will not only, we hope, encourage their release; it will mark down all those countries where the first rule of political freedom is being transgressed: that a man should not suffer simply on account of the political opinions he holds, expresses or promotes in any reasonable way. This excludes the guerrilla or the terrorist. Whatever arguments may be advanced for violent revolution- ary action of this kind such activists are put in the same cate- gory as the political prisoner, who is obnoxious to the government solely for advocating a peaceful change of policy or government, or for expressing other opinions unwelcome to those in authority.

The choice of prisoners will be made by *The Times* and the articles to be published on our foreign pages will be written by staff members. The assistance of Amnesty International and other bodies has been sought and any other individuals with knowledge of particular countries will be consulted. Information of such cases is not always easily arrived at. Amnesty's experience has shown how ready governments are to deny outright that they hold any political prisoners (in fact because they define them as criminals or subversives) or to ignore the pleas made on behalf of such prisoners with the argument that they are no business

of outsiders. When such govern- ments have refused to allow inquiries to be made by a repre- sentative of Amnesty their excuses can carry no weight. Governments of all kinds who be found among those who imprison people for their political opinions. They may be communist or anti-communist; democratic or dictatorial; right- wing or left-wing. Often govern- ments that are demonstrably improving living standards for their people thanks to successful economic development will be especially irritated by charges that they hold political prisoners. —Singapore and Iran are examples—but means are as important as ends.

Some governments deny charges that they hold political prisoners when they are simply exercising inadequate control over their own security police. In some countries torture has for so long been habitual that no real effort is made to stop it. But all these acts are offences against political freedom and human rights. They must be protested against, always in hope of change, for it is particularly in those countries where better education and living standards are bringing greater political awareness that political freedom should find its proper place in the advance of the society.

The Baath regime also displays extreme reluctance to allow any genuinely autonomous Kurdish activity, even on the cultural front. In its official publications it avoids using even the name of Kurdistan, referring instead to the "autonomous area" loyalist wing of the Kurdish Democratic Party, which participates in the ruling national front, is not allowed to publish its daily newspaper in Kurdish; and its leader, Mr Aziz Aqrabi, was recently dropped from the Government.

The regime's aim is evidently to prevent further conflict by mixing the Kurdish and Arab populations as far as possible, whitewashing the predominant Kurdish areas, and getting the Kurds to feel that they are to all intents and purposes Arabs. But this policy is being pursued in such a crude and insensitive manner that it may well be self-defeating. The Minister of Information in a speech last autumn even announced a finan- cial reward for Arabs who would many Kurdish women, and vice versa. The immediate effect of such measures can only be to exacerbate Kurdish resentment, at a time when the Government might have had a good chance to exploit the Kurds' disillusion- ment with General Barzani and with the Iranian and American allies on whom he had unwisely relied.

Presumably the Baathists think they are now strong enough to ignore Kurdish resentment, and that the policy's long-term effect will be to root out Kurdish nationalism once and for all. Yet if Kurdish nationalism is any- thing like their own Arab nationalism, that will hardly be the case.

How, asked Signor Fabbrini and his colleagues in effect, may a publicly neglected parliament, or a parliament that lives by surferance and consultation, attract men and women of first ability to stand for membership in direct elections, what level of popular support are they likely to win from the electo- rate? And they have to face un- flinchingly the answer that ability of members and popular esteem will prove to be found up in powers. Until the powers have been wrested from the national govern- ments and national parliaments, there will not be many candidates of the quality of Willy Brandt, who is a special case, and there will probably be fewer European polls than we are used to in local govern- ment elections.

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Damages for air crash deaths

From Mr Bernard S. Engler
Sir, I feel that some reply is called for to the letter from Sir Iain Moncreiffe (March 3), but in doing so I must declare my interest as a solicitor acting for a number of the families of the victims of the DC10 accident. Sir Iain, according to *Who's Who*, is a member of Lloyd's.

In the course of the last two years I have met many of the relatives of the victims and I think that I have some idea of their feelings. They are not seeking vengeance, but if Mr Kween, after watching the conduct of the defence over a period of five weeks in the case which has just finished, felt a sense of revenge one can understand his feelings. There are many who feel that it is the "innocent" insurers' failure to deal fairly with the families that has led to the settlement up for so long.

That viewpoint seems to me to be reinforced by the subsequent interferences from those who speak for Lloyd's. The case of McDonnell Douglas, who made their product in California, where they must know that there is a strict product liability law and a high level of damages for wrongful death, if they do not wish to be at the risk they are now facing, they should manufacture their aeroplane somewhere else.

Equally, Lloyd's have taken a premium which one can be sure has been calculated on an assessment of the risk, and if they do not wish to face the consequences they should either decline the insurance or make it a condition thereof that the aircraft is man- ufactured in a jurisdiction where the damages would be more to their liking.

Sir Iain Moncreiffe errs when he refers to punitive damages not hurting the culprit. Punitive damages were not claimed or awarded in the Kween case. No evidence at all concerning the crash went before the jury. They were dealing solely with compensating the loss sustained by the family, and the award is the jury's view of the family's sum which represents the economic loss the children have suffered, plus that suffered by the grandparents, plus the value to be put upon the loss of the parents' society (admittedly a concept which is not yet known in English law). Even if the award had been awarded (and it has not) being sought in many of the 300-odd cases still outstanding, those damages would have to be paid by McDonnell Douglas itself, as the law of California does not permit that risk to be passed against all and such damages would in fact be paid to the relatives of the victims.

Yours truly,
BERNARD S. ENGLER,
11 St Peter's Square,
Manchester.

'Discount' for guilty plea
From Mr Henry Cecil
Sir, Professor Raphael writes in today's *Times* (March 5) that "like cases should be treated alike".

Two men charged with no previous convictions, are charged with conspiracy to rape. The evidence is that each held the girl while the other raped her. Their crimes are exactly the same. One of them pleads guilty, expresses his deep contrition and asks that he will do his best to control his lust in the future. The other pleads not guilty and, either personally or through his advocate, puts the girl through a grueling and offensive cross-examination in which he suggests among other things that the girl freely consented to intercourse. Then he goes into the witness-box and commits what the jury find to be perjury.

Would Professor Raphael, if the judge in the case, think it his duty to give a discount to these guilty men on the sentence?

Yours faithfully,
HENRY CECIL,
6 Gray's Inn Square,
Gray's Inn, WCL.

Conservatives and the trade unions

From Mr John Garnett
Sir, I am sorry that your leading article of March 2 puts forward such a negative line on the efforts by Conservative leaders to produce some positive policies on trades unionism.

Any realist must accept that the Conservatives are likely to continue periodically to be the government of this country and what surely matters for industrial relations is that they should, whether in Government or in Opposition, try to forward policies that are relevant to productive management union relations. This can only come about if they are in discussion with trade unionists at all levels including the leadership. Such discussions will only have any meaning if Con- servatives recognise the essential role of the trade union movement just as others must recognise the essen- tial role of effective management.

As Mr Jack Jones has said, this will need to be supported by deeds. It is therefore at least encouraging that:

(a) Mr Prior has been the first Conservative employment spokesman that I can recall who has called on legal Con- servatives to join recognized unions and to play a part in their meetings.

(b) A Conservative government will not set out as disavowing some of the reasons for the industrial relations machinery which are highly valuable.

(c) Relevant worker participa- tion will be encouraged.

With regard to the leaders have repeatedly said that they must deal with the government of the day whatever its political complexion. I believe most of us who are influ- enced by trade union policies would wish them to deal in the same way with the opposition of the day which has power to influence the nation's future.

JOHN GARNETT, Director,
The Industrial Society,
10 St James's Place,
48 Brinsford Square, W1.
March 5.

From Mr Nigel Saul
Sir, It is understandable that some Conservatives, like Mr Acton (March 4), should feel perturbed at the Conservative Party's new attitude to the trade unions; it implies that all the battles fought in 1970-74 were battles fought in vain.

Yet I would venture to argue that

State political subsidy

From Mr F. W. J. Whetstone
Sir, Your political correspondent stated in your paper on March 1 that he considered that the subsidization of the political parties was "no more than a practical question needing a practical answer" and also that the Conservatives would be forced to accept their scruples and accept the government's handout of the tax payers' money as they would have no option but to do that.

Whilst deploring his change of mind which has replaced principle by a rather grubby necessity I would like to question whether the practical answer is as straightforward for the Conservative Party as he would make out. If the party is in receipt of a state subsidy why should any member who might wish to subscribe pay more than the minimum subscription? It is obviously not with the result that the subscription income would reduce so that the need for the state subsidy would increase, as Mr Wood himself pointed out in his first paragraph, with the result that what started as a topping up would end up as the main source of the party's income.

This prospect would be all right if the Conservative Party was to revert to the Corporate State path so eagerly trodden by Mr Heath and his associates, but the Conservatives are now advocating a reduction in government interference and state subsidies and a healthy self reliance on one's own two feet. So how could anyone seriously advocate these ideas whilst at the same time pocketing the tax payers' money? "Don't do as I do but do as I say" would be an extraordinarily cynical banner under which to fight the next election and one which would in no way enhance the standing of any politician in this country.

If this Socialist Government decides to hand out subsidies to the political parties the practical answer to the question that this would pose the Conservative Party would be to clearly demonstrate to the electorate that it means what it says and that the right road to travel is not that which at first glance looks the easier.

I am Sir, Yours faithfully,
F. W. J. WHETSTONE,
Bassett Manor,
Hartfield.

Russia and the West
From Mr A. V. Cottam
Sir, How comforting to be able to patronize Alexander Solzhenitsyn, as Professor Gollancz does (March 5). Just one more line of Russian intellectuals too stupid to understand the subtleties of the West, and if only we would encourage more Russian studies in our schools, we ourselves (as well as our pupils) would become Professor Gollancz.

Intelligent enough to deal with Russian totalitarianism. How? Tolstoy was intelligent enough to realize that vast military power must necessarily be used, even in spite of those supposed to control it, and this is why Napoleon attacked Russia. It is also why Hitler attacked Russia and why Solzhenitsyn now thinks Russia stands ready to defeat the West.

Mr Solzhenitsyn understands only too well the will and confidence that the West has lost in the last few years to stand uncompromisingly for liberty—the exercise of the individual's God-given free will within the rule of law—as against the brutal coercion of the individual in the name of inhuman political theory.

In our own misguided little country, we are now beginning to see the first fruits of totalitarianism—closed shop for the press, adminis- tration by television, local party manipulation, police corruption, City Crosses, the Shrewsbury pickets, even the compulsion to strap our- selves into motor cars. We used to know much better, and while there is still a choice it might be wise to consider the harsh fate that may be in store for us; in the journey viaopathy, insolence, and Miss Linda Lovelace to the Gulag Archipelago.

Yours faithfully,
A. V. COTTAM,
Crownleigh,
Alderton, Woodbridge.

Police Complaints Board

From Mr Michael Alison, Conservative MP for Barking, Essex
Sir, The Home Secretary has shown both wisdom and realism in allowing those involved in the Police Bill Standing Committee a fortnight's pause for reflection. The fact is that some flaws in the Government's proposals have emerged from Com- mittee scrutiny, and these appear seriously to undermine the principles of independence, and of complainant satisfaction, which origi- nally inspired the Bill.

On independence, the Bill as originally drafted provided that the proposed Complaints Board should be subject to the Home Secretary's "general directions". This is the standard formula for an adminis- trative control mechanism which would nevertheless be unthinkable, for example, in relations between the Government and the Director of Public Prosecutions (who handles the most serious complaints against the police), or between the Govern- ment and the Ombudsman; and it seemed inappropriate that it should apply to an "independent" Police Complaints Board. Consequently the Standing Committee, by a majority, have deleted this provision from the Bill.

There is some evidence that the Government, driven by the logic of their scheme, will have to try to reinstate this control mechanism, or something akin to it, at a later stage in the Bill's progress. For under- takings have allegedly been given to the police (or so the Committee were told) to the effect that their interests, particularly in regard to "double jeopardy", would be safe- guarded by this device for maintain- ing an administrative surveillance

over the Board and its activities. The balance has been tipped in the proposed Board's "independence", and its creatureliness should surely be weighed very carefully. Some such compromise may in the end be inescapable; but our two-week recess at least admits of some re-examina- tion of the problem.

A "complainant satisfaction" Bill's provisions can now be seen to be seriously inadequate. The essential flaw is that the Police Complaints Board—unlike the Ombudsman—will be activated not by the complainant, but by the bureaucracy. Only when the Board is dissatisfied with a police disciplinary decision will it put in hand a review: there is no provision what- ever for the complainant to have access to the Board, or to initiate its operations, or to question its decisions. Viewed in the context of its qualified "independence", this feature must raise serious doubts as to the Board's capacity to ensure that justice is seen to be done.

The Bill's logic, and its logical contradictions, have led a number of members of the Standing Com- mittee to consider once again whether an Ombudsman alternative—originally suggested by Sir Robert Mark in a formal memorandum—might not after all prove viable. We shall certainly examine this alterna- tive carefully in the next weeks, and we are grateful to the Home Secretary for giving us the opportunity to do so. It may prove in the end that the Government's propo- sals, warts and all, alone are viable. It will be easier to accept this against the background of our recess.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ALISON,
House of Commons,
March 2.

British Art today
From the President of the Royal Academy
Sir, I was most interested to read Mr Paul Overy's article (March 2) on the exhibition *Art in England 1960-76* at the present time in Milan, particularly so as the Royal Academy has plans for something similar and we hope just as exciting in the autumn of 1977. This, as we all know, will be within the period of Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee and our idea is to present a selection of British Art produced during the 25 years, 1952 to 1977.

The choice will be difficult and no doubt disputed—hooray for that—but there should emerge a feeling of the time and even perhaps some pointers to the future.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CASSON, President,
Royal Academy of Arts,
Piccadilly, W1.
March 5.

The Poetry Society
From Mr Laurence Cotterell
Sir, It is good to see from today's *Times* (March 1) that our dissenters are now directing their energies into a constructive channel by starting a journal to join *Poetry Review* and more than a hundred other maga- zines which among them present such a wide range of contemporary poetry to the people of Britain.

I do hope, however, that the "reformer" quoted will not continue to issue encyclicals from his ivory tower. If he will come down among us, he will find that the National Poetry Secretariat, part of this organization, arranges about a thousand poetry readings and events each year, involving groups of every conceivable kind, and employing most of the leading poets of our day as well as a host of young, emerging writers.

The Society's work in schools is

too extensive to describe here, and space restrictions would preclude mention of all the other nation-wide activities organized, but I might just mention the Association of Little Presses, housed at this centre, since they now produce seven-eighths of all the new poetry issued in this country.

Anyone who wants to see how budding poets are encouraged (or who wants to read personally) is cordially welcome at Poets' Forum, which takes place here at 7.30 pm on March 18 and every alternate Thursday during the season, as part of a wide and varied programme of events. And aspiring poets (or established poets for that matter) can use the facilities of the poets' shop at this centre to produce their own books at no cost except that of the materials used.

We look hopefully for a record turnout of members at the Society's annual general meeting on June 12, especially those who, with members of the present council, seek con- siderable self-advertisement of exhi- bitionism. The votes of the members of the Poetry Society constitute the only proper way of achieving repre- sentative administration of its affairs; not the rhetoric of dissi- dents, who have been defeated in their aims by the very postal poll of the entire membership they were so insistent on demanding—after losing every resolution at the extra- ordinary general meeting they had also demanded.

I should add that all regions of the country, with various regional arts associations and cultural bodies, are represented on the general council.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE COTTERELL,
Chairman,
The National Poetry Centre,
21 Barlow Court Square, SW5,
March 1.

Play-tested toys
From Mrs Mary White
Sir, May I cite in support of Mrs Cleverly (February 13) and in answer to Messrs Smith and West (March 4) the results of a survey conducted by me of the preferences of a sample of toy-users who, it happens, have been under my eye for some years now.

Top, the plastic colander. Users employ this play-unit in a wide range of recreation situations, eg:

1. the outdoor play area (making multiple sand trickles, vainly attempting to entrap pond life, etc);

2. the indoor play area (mainly as head protection in militant confrontation situations);

3. during all-over additions (eg. to provide rainfall, multiple upward sprays and marine conveyance for Jumbies).

Bottom, play-units in nice boxes on which it is stated that these toys have the potential to contribute to the user's development.

Yours, etc,
MARY WHITE,
Burnt Oak,
Waldron, Heatfield.

Wood

Who governs, rasbourg or estminster?

prospect that next month's can summit in Luxembourg, free to direct elections to the Parliament in May-June continues to raise some of the speculative questions in West- minster politics. What powers would uly elected European Parlia- demand, and what powers the national parliaments be to concede? In what num- and quality would candidates e European Parliament present elves? How much will they be compared with their West- er colleagues, and what powers will they be provided with and services? Will they fight elections primarily as standard- s for national parties, or as ers of the political groups in European Parliament, where y being made by socialists, an democrats, and liberals? e United Kingdom have to the change to PR to ensure representation in the European ment? And how on earth will minster's 635 constituencies be ctively refashioned to make 67 European constituencies?

Callaghan, the Foreign Secre- met some of these questions is customary party manager- ness and aplomb when he the Parliamentary Labour at a special meeting last week- ent out of his way to soothe sceptics in the rank and file. powers for the European ment and PR? Relax, advised allaghan: "My own view is when you recall that it has 20 years for the original members to get as far as and the amount of effort I don't believe anyone will to make further changes for est of the century."

Government's Green Paper on elections says that the Euro- Parliament's present powers id be the basis on which the

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Germany's
consumer-led
recovery,
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Commonwealth experts stress urgency of Third World problems

Westlake, aimed at compromise between rich and poor nations in order to overcome the division of the world, are contained in an unpublished report issued to Commonwealth ministers.

The report is the second of a high-level group of experts, known as the Commonwealth Group of Experts, set up at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, last May.

The group, which was set up at the request of Mr Wilson, Minister of Trade, led to a series of meetings, including one on the earnings of raw materials producers.

The report had a considerable influence on last September's development. It is the new report could help to prevent a further drop in the Commonwealth's income (United 4), next May.

Mr McKelvey, Secretary of the Caribbean Community, is chairman of the group. It is a former member of the Board of Trade and a leader of a United Nations delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, last May.

The report also says that something must be done urgently about the mounting debt problem of the Third World. The experts are known to think that these debts are higher than generally supposed because a large part of the loans to developing countries are unsecured.

If there were a large number of defaults on debts, this could pose a serious threat to the banking system. Debt repayments and interest now account for over half of the gross flow of resources from rich nations to the Third World. This is a large sum of money, and the experts group suggests that the rate of official aid should now be written off.

There is a continuing need for international companies to finance the development of the Third World, the report believes. But it is thought to suggest that the need for codes of conduct governing the behaviour of international companies and the transfer of technology should be swiftly brought into effect.

Merger, lira and gold main Basle topics

Norman, the Italian lira and among the main topics of the central bank meeting in Basel today, will be the currency market's nervousness today, the bankers will want to Bank of England's exchange rate for the decline which would be the first time since the sterling will become a settling factor on currency markets for the near future.

The sudden fall at the last week and the consequences of the lira will be a factor in the apparent dampening of last month's speculation in a downwards adjustment.

Combined with the apparent acceleration of the lira, the latest currency disturbances are likely to raise again the question as to whether an adjustment of present exchange rate relationships within the "snake" can be banished for the medium term until after the West German elections in October.

The meeting, which is being attended by Mr Johannes Witteveen, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, and Dr Arthur Burns, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, is expected to take the form of a discussion of the world's poorest developing nations.

According to European central bank sources, the IMF in Washington has yet to put forward concrete proposals.

Raises price of cement yarn

Prices in the price of its yarn are to be raised by ICI Fibres at the beginning of April. The price of the yarn in both polyester and cotton will be lifted by an amount of about 10 per cent.

Industrial yarns are used in the manufacture of conveyor belting and industrial items. The price of the first ICI yarn on the market since the middle of last year, Fibre producers are now looking to recover some of the increase in costs by raising prices steadily.

Felixstowe group backs Ferries bid

An action group of Felixstowe dock shareholders was formed on Saturday to urge acceptance of a takeover bid by European Ferries. They prefer the offer to proposals by the state-owned British Transport Docks Board to take the port into the national scheme.

One of the group's founders, Mr Geoffrey Woolard, said: "We intend to circulate all 3,000 shareholders next week, pointing out that the new offer is better for everyone."

Directors of the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Co said at the weekend that they would support the legislation promoted by the British Transport Docks Board.

French Kier facing Commons inquiry

By Maurice Corina
Financial Editor

Circumstances surrounding the provision of state grants and a standby loan to the trunk road builders French Kier may be investigated by the public accounts committee of the House of Commons.

Disgruntled shareholders complained last year that they were kept in the dark about government talks on the group's financial position. Now, evidence has come to light that, contrary to the emphasis of public statements on the case of the difficulties, losses on road building contracts, the problems were caused to a significant extent by the holding company's property development business and related borrowings.

French Kier has been granted a £5.5m loan of £5.5m and a convertible loan of £5.5m to help to maintain its road programme by the Department of the Environment.

This financial aid was fixed up between September, 1974, and May, 1975. Just over three months ago Mr J. C. S. Mott, the group's chairman, reported the transformation of W. & C. (Construction), the trunk road subsidiary, and said it was moving towards a break-even position.

The need for a parliamentary inquiry is said to arise because the group's MPs and shareholders fully told the results of an independent inquiry conducted by government appointed accountants.

This was commissioned about five months before the Department of the Environment and French Kier made parallel announcements on May 22 last year revealing the liquidity crisis, blaming the road-building subsidiary and explaining the need for state aid in the event of the public interest to protect important trunk road contracts.

That report concluded that financial help on road building was necessary because it would cost a much higher sum—£26m—to engage other contractors to complete 16 important contracts expected then to lose about £14m.

But what was not revealed was another finding—that French Kier's difficulties had been caused to a significant extent by its property operations, which had involved the accumulation of a large land bank financed mainly by borrowings. The difficulties of the group were described as attributable "only in part" to the construction subsidiary's forecast losses.

The facts have now been reported to the Commons Public Accounts Committee. Financial aid was given under the Highways Act, 1959, and not the Industry Act, 1972, on the grounds that the money was to be used to help road building and not to help the group as a whole was in financial difficulty.

This disclosure that shop development and other town centre property schemes were a key contributory factor in the

holding group's financial problems is bound to raise questions. At the annual meeting last June, the chairman said a premature announcement of the negotiations with the Government would have introduced an undesirable speculative factor to share purchasing, and would have tended to precipitate an event the board was working to avoid.

At that time shareholders and MPs believed that the group's problems largely arose out of the trunk road contract problems.

It was more than a year before, in March 1974, that the newly-merged French Kier group secretly approached the department for special financial assistance on three motorway contracts.

The consequential government investigation was still going on, unbeknown to shareholders, when Mr T. J. Wignall, the then chairman, on June 6, 1974, issued an annual statement saying reasonable contracts were being given to French between April and July 1974, rejected the request for help because French Kier was forecasting substantial profits.

In September, French Kier told the department of a considerable deterioration and forecast substantial losses for 1974.

The liquidity position had become acute, but £3.5m it said would help them to remain solvent and enable the building group to complete outstanding road contracts.

After inquiries the Government concluded that both the group and the construction company were likely to fail without help. In November, 1974, the Treasury agreed to an ex gratia payment of £3.5m, but demanded that a thorough review should be made at the end of 1975.

A year later, in January, 1975, the financial stability of the group was again said to be threatened by cash flow problems. Suppliers had tightened credit terms. The Government called in an outside firm of accountants to conduct a thorough independent study, but in the meantime the department obtained another £3.75m from the Treasury to keep road contracts operational.

After seeing the accountants' report, the department agreed to provide more aid, but on strict conditions. Besides the option to buy a 28 per cent shareholding in the French Kier after December 31, 1976, there were various stringent conditions about transferring funds within the group.

About three months ago Mr J. C. S. Mott, the new chairman, told shareholders that he had secured the road contract subsidiary and that the department of a considerable deterioration and forecast substantial losses for 1974.

Strict security guard for Shaikh Yamani at oil talks in Florida

From Frank Vogl
Washington, March 7

Extraordinary security precautions are being taken today in a small Florida tourist resort where Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, is holding negotiations with top executives of the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco).

The meeting is believed to involve the completion of plans for the takeover of Aramco by the Saudi government. The minister arrived in Panama City, Florida, yesterday, and was soon joined by top executives of the Aramco companies that own the Saudi Arabian oil fields in California.

A spokesman for the State Department said today that Aramco had requested help in arranging security precautions for the meeting.

He said there was no substance to rumours suggesting that a secret meeting of ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries was being held in Florida. The Panama City meeting has been arranged by Aramco to resolve its negotiations with Saudi Arabia.

The spokesman denied that Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State, was planning a meeting with the Saudi minister.

The strict security precautions were requested as a result of the terrorist activity that brought chaos to the meeting of Opec ministers in Vienna in December.

It was impossible today to discover any details about the conference, and journalists were barred from entering the way Point Yacht and Country Club, where the meeting is being held.

Shaikh Yamani arrived in an Air Force base near Panama City in his private aircraft, and was taken by military helicopter to the conference, while the off executives all arrived in private jets to be met by dozens of special security agents.

The security precautions are perhaps unprecedented for a private business meeting in the United States. The Secret Service, the Department of Defence, the FBI, state and local police and private security agents have all been involved in protecting the oil minister and the executives of Aramco.

The Panama City News Herald said that the security guards had hired cars, boats and a helicopter to patrol the country club.

Jakarta: An Opec ministerial conference will be held on the Indonesian island of Bali on May 27 as agreed upon at the last Opec meeting in Vienna, a Pertamina (Indonesian state oil company) spokesman said at the weekend.

The head of Pertamina's marketing division, Mr E. Sauger, made the statement following reports that the meeting might not be held in Indonesia because of changes made in the state oil monopoly, including the sacking of Ibnu Sutomo, head of Pertamina, by President Suharto.—AP-DOWN JONES.

Revised SE rates to miss target date

By Our Financial Staff

New commission rates proposed by the Stock Exchange will not go into effect on the target date of March 25 after all, because of delays caused by getting agreement from the Price Commission.

Proposals have now been approved by the Commission but the process took longer than the SE expected, and some modifications had to be made to the original proposals.

These mainly affect the commission to be charged on gilt-edged transactions and will have the effect of reducing differentials between small and large gilt transactions.

It is understood that the original proposals, which the SE disclosed on December 22, would have led to a rise in commission on some small gilt bargains, while the rates would have fallen on bigger bargains. This change, however, was disavowed by the Price Commission.

An SE spokesman said last night that it should be possible to submit the commission proposals, as revised and cleared, to the Stock Exchange Council for approval within the next few days. However, it would not now be possible to have the revised commission structures implemented by the beginning of the Council's new financial year, on March 25.

Adoption of the new rates will require reprogramming of SE member firms' computers which in itself is likely to be a fairly lengthy process.

Bigger role urged for Minister in fuel plans

By Roger Vielvoys
Energy Correspondent

Greater government involvement in the long-term planning of the nationalised fuel industries is suggested by two government advisers as one of the principles for establishing a new United Kingdom energy policy.

In a discussion document Mrs Frances Morrell and Mr Francis Crisp, the Secretary of State for Energy, said that nationalised industries compete with each other and operate on the basis of separately drawn up corporate plans based on independent assumptions and geared to their own objectives.

They say the minister should be given the powers to make specific directives to the nationalised fuel industries and that the statutes controlling these corporations should be amended to bring them into line with this policy.

Mr Benn is already considering incorporating this power of direction into the new legislation that will govern the reorganisation of the electricity industry in the wake of the Polden Report.

The document examines the present policy guidelines for each of the industries, taking particular note of recommendations from the National Union of Mineworkers that the coal industry must continue to expand so it can meet a greater share of national energy requirements.

Mrs Morrell and Mr Crisp say it is a matter of "some concern" that most projections show that on the basis of present policies, the United Kingdom possibly faces a new energy gap in the 1990s at the same time as a general world energy scarcity.

The implications for the balance of payments, domestic energy prices, security of supply and industrial development could be serious.

"We could find our response to an emerging energy gap being a crash nuclear programme, high prices to consumers in an environment in which houses had not been adapted and where the United Kingdom had unnecessarily depleted its oil and gas reserves and was again facing a balance of payments crisis with regard to imported fuel."

Electricals set terms for unity in CEI

By Derek Harris

In a statement issued last night the Institution of Electrical Engineers gave its terms for staying in the Council of Engineering Institutions. It has threatened to resign over proposals for reorganising the profession.

The IEE, governing council set draft by-laws for a reorganised CEI to be chartered by the House of Commons. It has threatened to resign over proposals for reorganising the profession.

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Guidelines will not curb NEB, Mr Varley says

By Our Political Staff

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, yesterday denied reports that the Government's draft guidelines for the National Enterprise Board would place considerable curbs on the board's freedom.

He said it had been necessary to provide for a proper degree of accountability to the Government and to the public, but he thought it was "quite wrong" to suggest that the purposes of the board would be curtailed, by such requirements as having to consult him before embarking on operations involving large amounts.

"The purposes of the board remain large and ambitious," Mr Varley added. "It is our intention that the NEB should have wide powers of operational freedom."

Council puts plea to help home buyers

By Malcolm Brown

Substantial savings on new housing could be made if many of those now on council waiting lists were enabled to choose between a purchase house and a council house to rent. This is one of the main conclusions of the National Housing Council in its evidence to the government-established committee reviewing housing finance.

The council is an independent non-profit-making body, which sets minimum standards for new houses and attempts to protect purchasers from financial loss through defects.

In its evidence to the committee, published today, the council says it is cheaper to help the same people to buy than to rent because private houses are built more cheaply, because owners do not have to pay for maintenance and management, and because owners are prepared to devote a larger proportion of their income to housing. There would also be big savings in public capital expenditure of up to £400m annually.

Chambers want 5 pc pay ceiling

The Association of British Chambers of Commerce is pressing the Government to set a 5 per cent limit in the next stage of the pay policy.

This suggestion, broadly in line with the proposals put forward last month by the Confederation of British Industry, is set out in the ABC's Budget recommendations to Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, details of which were released last night.

A key element of any voluntary pay policy, says the ABC, should be that it will restore the incentive to work harder and accept additional responsibility.

The new pay norm should be based on a percentage formula, says the ABC, which would ensure that those on very low incomes are given some protection against rises in the cost of living. The Chancellor should set a limit for pay increases, the association adds.

It also calls for a review of present levels of income tax,

UK-Community mergers halved

Mergers and takeovers between British and EEC companies fell sharply last year, according to figures issued today by the London Chamber of Commerce.

In 1975 there were 42 mergers or takeovers by United Kingdom companies, compared with 85 in 1974.

Uncertainties about future world trade and lack of available capital were the principal reasons given for the fall-off.

The survey also indicates a fall in the share of Britain's exports to the Community from 34 per cent in 1974 to 32.3 per cent last year.

Refinery closure poses new threat to tanker owners

Banking and shipping are worried by the closure of the Newfoundland refinery at Comebycrae last week. It could be disastrous for tanker owners, who fear the shutdown could trigger off a series of financial catastrophes.

Eleven ships totalling more than two million tonnes deadweight have been on long-term, high rate time charters to carry crude and products to and from the £250m (£125m) project. Now they all face unemployment in the present depressed tanker market with losses to overall cash flow totalling about \$70m a year, according to one banker.

Already the new 32,000-tonne dwt Strait of Canosa, owned by Common Brothers of Newcastle upon Tyne, has been withdrawn from a highly profitable 16-year "bareboat" charter.

Common Brothers has two sister ships on identical charters, while other owners have eight very large crude carriers on time charter to the company for varying periods.

Ship brokers believe Common Brothers will be the first to make such a move. It is the last resort for any shipowner to withdraw a vessel from a time charter and, to succeed in any subsequent court case, the shipowner has to prove reasonable cause for believing that future hire-payments would not be forthcoming.

Apart from Common Brothers, the other companies with ships directly fixed to Newfoundland are: Burnham Oil, Senko, London & Overseas Freighters, Goto-Larsen and Granges Shipping. All but two of the eight vessels are on charters stretching into the 1980s.

Burnham, whose tanker troubles are already well known, will be further hit because it in turn had chartered the 216,000-tonne dwt Caracene from GATF-Wegco and still has to pay for it.

EEC resistance to shipyard aid

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Government plans to extend the inflation risk insurance scheme on shipbuilding export contracts to home orders are being frustrated by opposition from officials at the EEC Commission.

British shipbuilders, who have been pressing the Government to introduce measures to stimulate the flow of orders, particularly from United Kingdom owners into the yards, were expecting a government statement of an extension of the scheme last month.

It now appears that a statement by either Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, or Mr Gerald Kaufman, his Minister of State, will be delayed until the difficulty with the EEC is overcome.

United Kingdom shipyards, which are scheduled to be nationalised later this year, must secure new orders quickly if redundancies in some yards soon after nationalisation are to be averted.

Last year the industry gained orders for less than 70,000 tons gross tonnage of shipping, and gross 11 per cent of those were from British companies, against a traditional level of about 30 per cent.

Extension of the inflation risk insurance scheme to home ship orders seemed a simple and builders a fairly simple and straightforward means to encourage owners to bring forward one or two orders to home yards despite the continuing recession in shipping.

The industry has discussed other measures with the General Council of British Shipping and Whitehall, including a scrap-and-build policy, a stockpiling scheme and other incentives.

But the EEC Commission apparently is not happy at some aspects of the inflation-risk insurance scheme if it were to be applied to home orders. Under the terms of the scheme, however, it would be applicable only on the British content—to the exclusion of foreign content—in the form of components

and machinery—and yards therefore would seek to obtain domestic subcontractors.

France and Germany are apparently not at all happy, arguing that the scheme would discriminate unfairly against their industries.

But pressure for the scheme to be extended is strong, and the Departments of Industry and Trade are pressing strongly in Brussels for approval.

Mr Derek Kimber, chairman of Westsail shipbuilders Austin & Pickersill, which last week disclosed that it had picked up two export contracts for its SD 14 ship (taken at fixed prices and covered by the scheme), said: "I believe extension of the scheme to home orders will stimulate some owners."

Representatives of the world's leading shipbuilding nations are scheduled to meet in Paris today and tomorrow for talks on over-capacity in world shipyards.

Orders can be found, page 16

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Lending rate 9 pc

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate is being reduced this week to 9 per cent from 9.5 per cent. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury Bill tender:

Applications	£1,000m
Bids at 9.5% (Accepted)	£350m
Bids at 9.75% (Accepted)	£300m
Average bid	9.61%
Next Friday	£500m

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60/61 Graham Street
London EC2P 2DS.



BEARER DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS

WING THE DIVIDEND DECLARATION by the Company on 15th March 1976. NOTICE is now given that the following REDEMPTION will become payable to the Depository after 12 March 1976 against presentation to the Depository (below) of Claim Forms (obtainable from the Depository) and Bearer Depositary Receipts.

Gross Distribution per Unit	3.00 cents
Less 15% U.S. Withholding Tax	0.45 cents
	2.55 cents per unit
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Need for realism in property shares

For that reason, the trickle of cases involving these contracts could shortly become a stream—hence the inquiries now being mounted by the Institute.

regenerating the productivity or efficiency of the private industry by increasing its competitiveness.

As one might expect from this brief account of a mission successfully accomplished, the Committee on the Triology was then abolished. It went for no very clear reason, other than that it was an easy candidate for the chop, because it had no vested interest or effective pressure group fighting for its continuance.

In a rational world different lessons would have been drawn from the history of the trilogy in the past 10 years. We are now in a situation where governments of any party are drawn into spending substantial sums of the taxpayer's money to support

If money is overwhelming on present the unsoundness of the British economy, the sequence will be that more and more will have to be put in to hold and less. Tribolety did not in policies, because there are clear short-term results. Many witnesses on tribolety, however fewer Corcoran, for example, both reduce the level of expenditure and increase the product at one and the same

Germany in the midst of its first consumer-led recovery

the German economy. The recovery in construction has been whether the recovery in the goods sector will prove to be a flash in the pan or the beginning of a permanent upward trend in which a recovery and industrial investment play a part.

The recovery in construction are three question over the medium and long term outlook. These are the outlook for dis-

those voters who had crossed next to the upper of the North Rhine Westphalia Social Democratic Party's election lists in 1975 will have to wait until 1977 to know whether it will have an appreciable impact on prospects. In the meantime, there is unlikely to be a change in the economic direction of West Germany.

Peter Nor

Copper

Where the price is going

supplied to a customer under such a clause. Moreover, the successful action, known as the Romalpa case, established that the claim of the supplier could, in certain instances, extend to the manufactured goods. In this case the creditor was entitled to claim back what remained of his

Business Diary in Europe: Centre play • GM's McCormack

French government experts believe that, after a trade slowdown during the latter part of its 1970-75 economic plan, China will soon start assigning fresh contracts. And in this connection French instrument and precision tool makers are on the point of opening an exhibition in Peking.

Italian ferment

announced last December had no far remained a dead letter. This unreasonable delay, they maintained, had resulted in a "substantial paralysis" of the corporation when dealing with its subsidiary companies and an absentee role when facing the government—at a time when the gravity of the economy required decisive action.

Change of driver

Sette has reacted by reaffirming that the reorganization will go ahead and by promising talks during the week on new posts to be filled. But the ferment among senior staff has not yet subsided.

Curtain raiser

Technip put in for, and eventually got, the job of building an enormous petrochemical complex in Manchuria. But its contract discussions in Peking extended over 18 months and were physically exhausting and often painful. When the breakthrough finally came and the contract in English was finally signed, the Chinese still did not go to the trouble to demonstrate their measure, either. When they finally did, Peking Technip's negotiation team were presented with a picture made from feathers.

A shipbuilder who proves that orders can still be found

is being helped by a £5 under the Industry Act completed the scheme & the company's output p from the equivalent of 14s to 17 or 18 a year. Mr Kimber launched tirade against the Genera

Industry in the regions

Kingdom yards in terms of delivery dates did not help yards like his own who were attempting to get work in a market where prospects were few and far between.

For the future Mr Kim keeps an open mind about the company's 150th anniversary the prospect of amalgamation is viewed with premissings. For A. & P. mean the severing of Kimber likes to refer to umbilical cord with Low Overseas Freighters.

He admits to feeling 'disgusted' at the amount

compensation which would be expected in the Bill now before Parliament according to the views of the Committee and the House. Against an independent assessment of the company's worth of between £120 million Mr Kimber reckons that a value of £75 million of the proposed £100 million A & P loan would be fortunate to secure more than one third that amount.

In the longer term he has no doubt that there will go on building ships in British Shipbuilders' yards.

"We have two more in the pipeline for the future. We have a certain sector of the market which we know very well. Conditions in the rest of the world are at the moment uncertain. All I will say is that we at A & P will be as efficient as we can be successful than most."

Olivier Giscard d'Estaing in London.

1. The first group of variables is related to the characteristics of the firm, such as its size, age, and industry. These variables are used to control for the effects of firm-specific factors on the dependent variable.

Like Wimpey and Leing. J.
McGlam and Tübury Concess-

mineral, but production has been declining for 15 years and with sharply rising costs they are on a downward profits trend.

Australia has long ceased to be an important producer with annual output of around 550,000 ounces—not much more than a production of South Africa's 600,000 oz. Dourfontein. The famous "Golden Mile" has been played out and the fortunes of companies like North Kalgard depend on their other activities.

A more substantial producer is Eugoville, which last year turned out 600,000 ounces of gold as by-product at its copper mine.

Desmond Quigley

Business appointments

New chief for Tubes division

Mr J. H. Spurr has been named manufacturing director of Tube Investments steel tube division in London. Mr Spurr, who takes over the technical functions previously carried out by Sir James Menter, Mr Spurr, who is a member of the management committee of the steel tube division, relinquishes his post as managing director of the Worcester Works of the division by Mr D. Scott, who joins the TI steel tube division advisory board.

Mr A. M. Robertson, who takes over the technical structure of BP Oil, has been made a director of Springeour & Sandicott (London).

Mr Malcolm Campbell has become an associate director of Robert Lee International.

Mr Charles Clarke is to be chairman of the new company vice chairman of John Wright & Sons after the resignation at the end of 1967 of Mr John Wright, who will remain on the board.

David Kuehnan has joined the company as publishing director.

Mr J. H. Spurr, managing director, West & Smith, has been elected president of the Type Specialists Association.

Clough. Mr. M. J. Richards becomes group controller.
Mr. Ian Oates joins the board of Ritchies Equipment.
Mr. G. T. Sammons has become a director of Spirax-Sarco Engineering.
Mr. David Tebbs has been made managing director of SIS Applied Systems.
Mr. D. C. McMurdie is to be secretary-general of the Council of the Chartered Insurance

Institute: Mr. J. R. Craig becomes secretary (administration) and Mr. P. V. Saxon secretary (technical).
 Mr. E. G. Miller have been appointed as associate directors of British Commercial Property Investment Trust.
 Mr. H. M. Livingston-Learmonth has been appointed as director of Ayr Millan Tin Dredging.
 Mr. Eric Izod, a non-executive director, has been appointed acting chairman of Barbly Lease after the resignation of Mr. J. E. Smith, director of Mr. J. S. Ellis.
 Mrs. Rose Harper is to be appointed, to the boards of ACE Machinery and Wilmam Jones (Engineering).
 Mr. Derek Phipps has become managing director-designate for the London County Bus Services subsidiary of National Bus Co. United Kingdom.
 The newly constituted board of the National London division of Pizer Group, Mr. Arthur McCratten becomes assistant managing director, Unilever, and Geoffrey Burton, Unilever, managing director, Pizer Group.
 Mr. Richard Stunnebe becomes president, Cito International (Travel-Tourism-Markets). Other directors are: Mr. J. L. Gower (technical), Mr. Roland Allen (Production), Mr. Reem Kirpalani (Production), Mr. Ian Reynolds (Personnel).

Progress of Brazil crop is the key to what will happen in cocoa

Move towards sugar cartel

Another formal session of the Latin American Sugar Conference in Cali, the second city in Colombia, is expected to draw more than 20 countries from the Group of Latin American Caribbean Sugar Producers. The session will be translated into Spanish and broadcast on GEPLAS.

Between them these countries control between 60 and 70 per cent of world sugar and the moving sugar cartel is expected to be the last of its kind. The session is expected to discuss the sugar producers' cartel and a new session is expected to discuss the group's attitudes, budget and decide on quarters.

In addition to Colombia, other nationalities taking part in the meeting include Barbados, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago.

There has been some talk about the PRC which, having missed the market in late 1974 as faced with a mountain of sugar, was very keen to join. However, its claims to be an American country have prevented the ground that it is not "Latin" and only can "through its possessions with the United States."

However, the matter resolved by admitting the Philippines as an observer.

Wallace J.

Commodities

index change on week 404.7-0.5 (0.01%)

[illegible]

عَمَّا مِنَ الْإِهْلِ

Capitalization and week's change

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]

